2007
Fire Management Plan
Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests

Interagency Cooperation
getting the job done

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Fire Management Plan

Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests
2007

This plan serves as the Fire Management Plan (FMP) for both the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. This plan is revised annually.

Federal Fire Policy, Forest Service Manual direction, and the Forest Plans provide the highest level of direction. The Fire Management Plan provides guidance for implementation of the abovementioned direction. Many other subordinate plans and documents are referenced or excerpts included within this plan and include Wildland Fire Use Guidebooks, District Prevention Plans, and a variety of other "Plan" documents.

Both Forest Plans are currently in the revision process. The terminology contained in both the Clearwater and the Nez Perce Forest Plans is not consistent with that of the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy. This plan is considered a living document and will be amended by letter as policy changes become effective.

Recommended by: /s/ *Jim R. Gray* **Date: 4/9/07**
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Fire Management Plan
2007
Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

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Clear/Nez 2007 Fire Management Plan

Section I
Introduction

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Fire Management Plan
Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

Section I- Introduction

A. Purpose of Plan

The purpose of the Fire Management Plan is to implement decisions made in the Land and Resource Management Plan(s) as they relate to wildland fire. It is not a decision making tool, but an implementation guide.

This Fire Management Plan (FMP) sets forth the program and guidance to safely and efficiently manage wildland and prescribed fires within the context of the approved Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP) for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. The FMP incorporates existing interagency plans and assessments and considers the best available science to assess and plan on a landscape scale. It is a tool for fire managers to use in planning and directing wildland fire activities consistent with the goals and objectives identified in the LRMP; it provides the context for understanding strategic decisions, selecting appropriate fire management responses and implementing the supportive tactical actions appropriate for specific lands and identified areas. The FMP is supplemented by operational plans that describe fire preparedness and prevention, aviation management, preplanned dispatch, prescribed fire, cooperative agreements and wildland fire use guides.

This document satisfies the requirement that a FMP be developed for all areas subject to wildland fires and complies with the following federal policy and direction: Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review, the Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy and Implementation Procedures Reference Guide, Managing Impacts of Wildfires on Communities and the Environment, and Protecting People and Sustaining Resources in Fire Adapted Ecosystems – A Cohesive Strategy, and FSM 5101, 5103, 5108. The operational processes identified in the FMP stem from decisions in the Forest Plan that complies with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976, the regulations for National Forest Land and Resource Management Planning, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

B. Collaboration

The approved Land and Resource Management Plans (LRMP) for the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests (1987), developed through both an internal and public involvement process, form the basis for this Fire Management Plan (FMP). Collaborative opportunities that are available as the plan is implemented are best described through the agreements and interagency contacts cited in Appendix E: Cooperative Agreements.

Both Land and Resource Management Plans are currently being revised. Fire management is working with the revision team to ensure plan objectives will allow for the appropriate fire management response and fire management tools in order to protect resources from catastrophic wildland fire including human communities, watersheds, and threatened and

endangered species habitat; and establish landscape objectives to achieve sustainable ecosystems.

Cooperators play a vital role in fire management on the zone. Their programs and resources complement and augment those of the zone; their input and advice provide an additional forum for considering both public and other agency concerns and accounting for them, and their participation enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of fire management on the Clear/Nez Zone. Several Interagency and cooperative agreements are currently in place and include those with the Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management, Nez Perce Tribe, Clearwater Potlatch Timber Protection Association, and several Rural Fire Departments. The zone has an agreement in place to mutually share available resources with the Umatilla NF, and is also a participant in the Tri-Region Agreement with the Payette NF and Wallowa-Whitman NF.

Grangeville interagency dispatch center began operations last year in Grangeville, allowing for even more cooperation and integration with State and Federal partners. Local operating plans and procedures have been developed cooperatively and tier from state operating plans. With these plans and Interagency Dispatch in place last season, we were able to achieve safe cost-effective mobilization of resources and greater efficiencies.

Phase I of Fire Planning Analysis (FPA), which is replacing the National Fire Management Analysis System (NFMAS), was completed by an joint effort with the following agencies: Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF), Idaho State Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene and Cottonwood Field Offices (BLM), Coeur d'Alene and Nez Perce Tribes (BIA), and to a lesser extent: Nez Perce Historical Site (NPS) and Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge (FWS). The intent of FPA is to improve the planning and budgeting for wildland fire by working jointly with adjacent Federal, State and Local fire resources at a landscape, rather than unit, level. Though current revisions to FPA are underway nationally, interagency partners in the Northern Idaho FPU (Fire Planning Unit) are not expected to change.

County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans have been completed for all counties within the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests. State, local and federal agencies participated jointly to complete these plans. Both forests participate in the Idaho State Fire Plan Working Group which supports a framework for an organized and coordinated approach to implement the National Fire Plan. The group provides oversight and prioritization on a statewide scale with emphasis on a collaborative approach at the state and local levels for activities such as hazardous fuels treatment, equipment purchases, training, homeowner education, community wildland fire mitigation planning, and other activities. Cooperatively planning future hazardous fuels projects is essential in meeting both intent of the National Fire Plan and the needs of the local communities.

C. Implementation Authority

The FMP is a detailed program of action to carry out fire management policies and, thereby, achieve the protection and restoration objectives identified in the Forest Plans. The FMP also includes the implementation guides for fire protection on the Clear/Nez Zone. These guidelines should be applicable in most cases; but, while they are comprehensive, they are not intended to be detailed enough to be inclusive of every potential situation. Line Officers and District fire managers have the authority, responsibility and to implement the guidelines based

on current and expected situations. They also have the management flexibility to determine the appropriate response for managing wildland fire within the context of the situation requiring decision. The authorities for implementing the Fire Management Plan are found in Forest Service Manual 5101 and 5108. Forest Service directives can be found at http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/.

D. Link to Land and Resource Management Planning

This plan meets National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and other State and Federal regulatory requirements by implementing approved fire management direction outlined in each Forest Plan. The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests will provide safe, aggressive fire protection, and manage wildland fire use and prescribed fire events as appropriate and necessary to protect, maintain, and enhance resource values, and achieve the management goals and objectives for the lands encompassed by the respective forest. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests have and will continue to identify opportunities for reintroducing and managing fire in the ecosystems consistent with the goals and objectives in the approved Forest Plans.

It must be noted that the terminology in both the Clearwater Forest Plan and Nez Perce Forest Plan are not consistent with that of the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.

E. Authorities

FSM 5101.1 – Fire Management on National Forest System Lands. The following describes the authority for fire management activities on National Forest System Lands:

1. Organic Administration Act, Act of June 4, 1897 (16 U.S.C. 551). This act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make provisions for the protection of National Forests against destruction by fire.

2. Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, Act of July 22, 1937 (7 U.S.C. 1010, 1011). This act authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program of land conservation and land utilization to "assist in controlling soil erosion, reforestation, preserving natural resources, protecting fish and wildlife, . . . mitigating floods, . . . protecting the watersheds of navigable streams, and protecting the public lands. . . ."

3. Wilderness Act, Act of September 3, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131, 1132). This act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to take such measures as may be necessary in the control of fire within designated wilderness.

4. National Forest Management Act, Act of October 22, 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600 et seq.). This act directs the Secretary of Agriculture to specify guidelines for land management plans to ensure protection of forest resources. Implementing regulations at Title 36, Part 219 of the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 219.27) specify that consistent with the relative resource values involved, management prescriptions in forest plans must minimize serious or long-lasting hazards from wildfire.

5. Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.). This act provides for the protection and enhancement of the nation's air resources and applies to the application and management of prescribed fire.

5101.2 - Fire Management on Other Federal, State, and Private Lands. The following additional authorities provide for Forest Service wildfire protection activities on other lands under appropriate circumstances:

1. Economy Act of 1932, Act of June 30, 1932 (41 U.S.C. 686). This act provides for procurement of materials, supplies, equipment, work, or services from other federal agencies.

2. Granger-Thye Act, Act of April 24, 1950 (16 U.S.C. 572). This act authorizes expenditure of Forest Service funds to erect buildings, lookout towers, and other structures on land owned by states. It provides for the procurement and operation of aerial facilities and services for the protection and management of the national forests and other lands administered by the Forest Service.

3. Reciprocal Fire Protection Act, Act of May 27, 1955 (42 U.S.C. 1856). This act authorizes reciprocal agreements with federal, state, and other wildland fire protection organizations.

4. Wildfire Suppression Assistance Act, Act of April 7, 1989 (42 U.S.C. 1856). This act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into agreements with fire organizations of foreign countries for assistance in wildfire protection.

5108 - REFERENCES. Consult the publications listed in this section for guidance on the minimum standards and procedures in various aspects of wildland fire management. The National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) publications are available upon request by writing or faxing the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) at:

National Interagency Fire Center
Great Basin Cache Supply Office
3833 S. Development Avenue
Boise, ID 83705-5354
Fax Number: (208) 387-5548

1. Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review, Final Report, December 18, 1995. This report establishes joint Federal wildland fire management principles, policy, and recommendations. (See para. 9 for information on the related implementation guide.)

2. Field Managers Course Guide (NWCG, PMS 901-1). This guide contains information on training principles and guidelines, wildfire training course systems, and course descriptions. Also available at *http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/training/training.htm*

3. Firefighters Guide (NWCG, NFES 1571, PMS 414-1). This guide contains material concerning firefighting basic practices.

4. National Fire Danger Rating System User's Guide (NWCG, NFES 1522, PMS 430-

3) and Gaining an Understanding of NFDRS (NFES2665). These guides provides information and guidelines on the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS); information concerning location, instrumentation, and maintenance of fire danger weather stations; and instructions for predicting fire danger. Also available at *http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs.htm*

5. National Interagency Mobilization Guide (NFES 2092). This guide provides current dispatching and mobilization direction and procedures.

6. Prescribed Fire Complexity Rating System Guide (NWCG, NFES 2474, PMS 424). This guide provides guidance on the complexity elements and process to be used in determining the initial complexity of a project as high, moderate, or low.

7. Smoke Management Guide for Prescribed and Wildland Fire (NWCG, NFES 1279, PMS 420-1). This guide provides guidelines for planning and managing smoke from prescribed fires to achieve air quality requirements through improved smoke management practices. Also available at *http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs.htm*

8. Weather Station Handbook - An Interagency Guide for Wildland Managers (NWCG, PMS 426-1). This guide provides standards and procedures for siting, installing, operating, and maintaining automated and manual weather stations.

9. Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy Implementation Procedures Reference Guide. This guide provides interagency guidance on carrying out the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (listed in para. 1 of this section). This guide is available from the Fire and Aviation Management Staff, Washington Office.

10. Fire and Aviation Management Qualifications Handbook (FSH 5109.17) (For the USFS it replaces the NWCG, PMS 310-1). This agency guide provides descriptions, qualifications, and requirements for fire suppression and prescribed fire positions. Available at *http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/dughtml/fsh_5000.html*

11. Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology (NWCG, NFES 1832, PMS 205) This glossary includes terms used by the NWCG member agencies in wildland fire, prescribed fire, and incident management.

12. Incident Response Pocket Guide (NWCG, NFES 1077, PMS 461). This interagency guide provides a number of checklists and management practices for use in responses to wildland fires and other incidents. Available at: *http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/pubs.htm*

13. Interagency Standards for Fire and Aviation Operations. This interagency handbook provides guidance for implementing safe and effective fire and aviation management operations. Available at *http://www.fire.blm.gov/Standards/redbook.htm*

F. Definitions and Acronyms Used in this Document

A Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology is more extensive than the list contained here and can be found at http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary/PMS205.pdf.

AAR, After Action Review - A professional discussion of an event, focused on performance standards, that enables Agency Administrators and firefighters to discover for themselves what happened, why it happened, and how to sustain strengths and improve on weaknesses. An After Action Review is a tool incident command personnel and units can use to get maximum benefit from every incident. It provides a daily review of the day's actions:

- Identify and discuss effective and non-effective performance. Candid insights into specific firefighter, leader, and unit strengths and weaknesses from various perspectives.
- Feedback and insight critical to actions that were not standard operating procedures, or those that presented safety problems.
- Lessons learned and how to apply them in the future.

Appropriate Management Response – any specific action suitable to meet FMU objectives. Typically it ranges across a spectrum of tactical options from monitoring to intensive management actions.

Confine – Confinement is the strategy employed in appropriate management responses where a fire perimeter is managed by a combination of direct and indirect actions and use of natural topographic features, fuel, and weather factors.

FMU, Fire Management Unit – Any land management area definable by objectives, topographic feature, access, values to be protected, political boundaries, fuel types, or major fire regime groups, etc., that set it apart from management characteristics of an adjacent unit. These units may have dominant management objectives and pre-selected strategies assigned to accomplish these objectives.

FMZ, Fire Management Zone – A geographic zone used in the NFMAS Initial Attack Analysis that describes protection and suppression capabilities within the context of historical fire occurrence.

FSH, Forest Service Handbook – handbooks on specific topics that have been incorporated into the FS directives system.

FSM, Forest Service Manual – defines current FS policy

Forest Plan or LRMP – The Land and Resource Management Plan for the forest. This document provides broad direction for the forest over a 10-15 year period.

NAAQS – National Ambient Air Quality Standards – Standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency for maximum amounts of various pollutants that can be introduced to the atmosphere by human activities.

NFMAS, National Fire Management Analysis System – A model for analyzing weather data, fire behavior and historic fire occurrence to predict most efficient level of fire resources for future years.

MMA, Maximum Manageable Area – The firm limits of management capability to accommodate the social, political, and resource impacts of a wildland fire. Once established as part of an approved plan, the general impact area is fixed and not subject to change. .

Prescribed Fire – Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements must be met, prior to ignition.

Prescription – Measurable criteria that define conditions under which a prescribed fire may be ignited, guide selection of appropriate management responses, and indicate other required actions. Prescription criteria may include safety, economic, public health, environmental, geographic, administrative, social, or legal considerations.

T & E – Threatened and Endangered – Any wildlife or plant species classified as Endangered or Threatened by the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

WFIP, Wildland Fire Implementation Plan – A progressively developed assessment and operational management plan that documents the analysis and selection of strategies and describes appropriate management response for a wildland fire being managed for resource benefits.

WFSA, Wildland Fire Situation Analysis – A decision making process (and documentation) that evaluates alternative management strategies against selected safety, environmental, social, political, economic, and resource management objectives.

Wildland Fire – Any non-structure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland. This term encompasses fires previously called both wildfires and prescribed natural fires.

Wildland Fire Use – The management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific pre-stated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas outlined in FMP's. Operational management is described in the WFIP.

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Section II

Relationship to Land Management Planning and Fire Policy

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Fire Management Plan

Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

Section II- Relationship to Land Management Planning and Fire Policy

The following items have been extracted from the Clearwater and Nez Perce Land and Resource Management Plans and other policy manuals, handbooks, and documents so that fire managers have a single source document identifying in broad programmatic terms the forest direction for their fire management activities. Only areas referencing fire are included. Specific forest plan direction and goals are referenced in sub-sections I and II below. For complete text, refer to the following documents.

A. Reference to Planning and Policy Documents

√ Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, Clearwater NF, 1987

√ Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revised LRMP, Clearwater NF, 1987

√ Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, Nez Perce NF, 1987

√ Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Revised LRMP, Nez Perce NF, 1987

√ NFMAS, Clearwater-Nez Perce Fire Zone, 2001 re-analysis

√ Federal Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy and Program Review, January 2001 (FWFMP)

√ A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment -10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan, 2001, 2002, 2006

√ Interagency Strategy for the Implementation of Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, June 2003

√ Wildland Fire Use Implementation Procedures Reference Guide, May 2005

√ Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book), 2007

√ The Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy – Implementation Procedures Reference Guide, 1995

√ Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Reference Guide, September 2006

√ Forest Service Manual (FSM) 5100, 5700, 2320

√ Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 5109

The 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy (FWFMP) provides direction for federal fire management agencies. In summary, federal fire management activities and programs are to provide for firefighter and public safety, protect and enhance land management objectives and human welfare, integrate programs and disciplines, require interagency collaboration, emphasize the natural ecological role of fire, and contribute to ecosystem sustainability (FWFMP 2001). The 2001 Federal Fire Policy and its implementation are founded on the following Guiding Principles:

1. Firefighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity.
2. The role of wildland fire as an essential ecological process and natural change agent will be incorporated into the planning process.
3. Fire management plan, programs, and activities support land and resource management plans and their implementation.
4. Sound risk management is a foundation for all fire management activities.
5. Fire management programs and activities are economically viable, based upon values to be protected, costs, and land and resource management objectives.
6. Fire management plans and activities are based upon the best available science.
7. Fire management plans and activities incorporate public health and environmental quality considerations.
8. Federal, State, tribal, local, interagency, and international coordination and cooperation are essential.
9. Standardization of policies and procedures among federal agencies is an ongoing objective.

For more exhaustive policy refer to FWFMP 2001 (chapter 3 page 22-24) and FSM 5103 (items 1-6).

The following fire policy is taken from A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment -10-Year Strategy Implementation Plan (December 2006). The following details the implementation goals, implementation outcomes, performance measures, and priority tasks of the revised *Implementation Plan*. This is a national emphasis and takes a look at performance measures for Fire Management organizations based on the National Fire Plan.

Goal One - Improve Fire Prevention and Suppression

Implementation Outcome
Losses of life are eliminated, and firefighter injuries and damage to communities and the environment from wildfires are reduced.

Performance Measures

a) Percent change from 10-year average for:
- Percent of wildfires controlled during initial attack, and
- Number of unwanted human-caused wildfires.

b) Percent of fires not contained in initial attack that exceed a stratified cost index.

Goal Two - Reduce Hazardous Fuels

Implementation Outcome
Hazardous fuels are treated, using appropriate tools, to reduce the risk of wildfire to communities and to the environment.

Performance Measures

a) Number and percent of WUI acres treated that are identified in CWPPs or other applicable collaboratively developed plans, and the number and percent of non-WUI acres treated that are identified through collaboration consistent with this *Implementation Plan*.

b) Number of acres treated per million dollars gross investment in WUI and non-WUI areas.

c) Percent of collaboratively identified high priority acres treated where fire management objectives are achieved as identified in applicable management plans or strategies.

Goal Three - Restoration and Post-Fire Recovery of Fire-Adapted Ecosystems

Part A - Restoration of Fire-Adapted Ecosystems

Implementation Outcome
Fire-adapted ecosystems are restored, rehabilitated and maintained, using appropriate tools, in a manner that will provide sustainable environmental, social, and economic benefits.

Performance Measures

a) Number and percent of acres treated, through collaboration consistent with this Implementation Plan, identified by treatment category (i.e. prescribed fire, mechanical, and wildland fire use).

b) Percent of the natural ignitions occurring in areas designated for wildland fire use or consistent with wildland fire use strategies that are allowed to burn and the number of acres burned.

c) Number and percent of acres treated to restore fire-adapted ecosystems which are:
- Moved toward desired conditions, and
- Maintained in desired conditions.

Part B - Post-Fire Recovery of Fire-Adapted Ecosystems

Implementation Outcome
Lands damaged by wildfire recover to a desired condition.

Performance Measures

a) Percent and number of burned acres identified in approved post-wildfire recovery plans as needing treatments that actually receive treatments.

b) Percent of burned acres treated for post-wildfire recovery that are trending toward desired conditions.

Goal Four - Promote Community Assistance

Implementation Outcome
Communities at risk have increased capacity to prevent losses from wildland fire and realize economic benefits resulting from treatments and services.

Performance Measures
State Foresters or their equivalent will be responsible for tracking performance measures (a) and (b) and for determining when communities have met the associated requirements. Federal agencies will be responsible for tracking performance measure (c).

a) Number and percent of communities-at-risk covered by a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) or equivalent that are reducing their risk from wildland fire. A community is at reduced risk if it has satisfied at least one of the following requirements:
- Recognized as a FIREWISE community or equivalent, or
- Enacted a mitigation/fire prevention ordinance, or
- High priority hazardous fuels identified in a CWPP or equivalent are reduced or appropriate fuel levels on such lands are maintained in accordance with a plan.

b) Percentage of at risk communities who report increased local suppression capacity as evidenced by:
- The increasing number of trained and/or certified fire fighters and crews, or
- Upgraded or new fire suppression equipment obtained, or
- Formation of a new fire department or expansion of an existing department involved in wildland firefighting.

c) Number of green tons and/or volume of woody biomass from hazardous fuel reduction and restoration treatments on federal land that are made available for utilization through permits, contracts, grants, agreements, or equivalent.

I. Clearwater National Forest

NOTE: The terminology in the Clearwater Forest Plan is not consistent with that of the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.

A. Forest-wide Goals, Objectives and Standards

The following goals, objectives and standards have been extracted from the 1987 Clearwater Forest Plan as they are relevant to fire management.

GOALS

Wildlife

- "Maintain and, where appropriate, improve the winter and summer habitat over time to support increased populations of big-game wildlife species."

Protection

- "Prevent and suppress wildfires commensurate with resource values to be protected while recognizing the role of fire in ecological processes.

- Manage National Forest resources to prevent or reduce serious long lasting hazards from pest organisms utilizing principles of integrated pest management.

- Coordinate with the State of Idaho Air Quality Bureau to develop a smoke management program for prescribed burning in the State."

OBJECTIVES

Wildlife and Fish

- "Rehabilitate by prescribed burning a minimum of 1,300 acres of key big-game winter range per year through the first decade to meet elk population goals.

Protection

- "Develop a smoke management program that will meet Environmental Protection Agency as facility standards for the State of Idaho by FY 1988.

- Develop and implement an interagency fire management dispatch office within 5 years.

- Re-evaluate fire protection boundaries and fire protection acres within five years to maintain economic and efficient fire suppression activities."

Table 1. Projected outputs and activities by Time Period (1987 Clearwater LRMP)

			Average Annual Units				
			Planned	Projected			
Target Item 1/	Output or Activity	Unit of Measure	1986-1995	1996-2005	2006-2015	2016-2057	2026-2035
Protection T23	Fuels Mgmt- Activity	Acres	11193	12856	18919	19696	23456
Wildlife T03	Wildlife Habitat Imp.	Acres	1300	1300	1300	1300	1300

STANDARDS

The following standards apply to the National Forest land administered by the Clearwater National Forest. They are intended to supplement, not replace, the National and Regional policies, standards, and guidelines found in Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks and the Northern Regional Guide.

Wildlife and Fish

- "Provide the proper mix of hiding and thermal cover, forage, and protection from harassment during critical periods on big-game summer range (primarily elk) in accordance with criteria contained in the "Guidelines for Evaluating and Managing Summer Elk Habitat in Northern Idaho."

- Rehabilitate key big-game winter range to meet elk population goals (Also see Management Areas C3 and C4)."

Protection (Fire)

- "Prepare a fire management action plan annually. This plan will provide specific direction for accomplishing fire management objectives.

- See Appendix D of the Forest Plan and individual management areas for initial attack direction.

- Treat activity fuel loadings to an acceptable level to reduce fire spread, and fire intensity, prepare sites for regeneration, and reduce impediment to wildlife travel.

- Prioritize funding of fuel management projects in the following order: pre-existing activity fuel: natural fuel loadings that pose a threat to human life and property: and under-funded brush disposal projects.

- Develop an Escaped Fire Situation Analysis as a basis for establishing the appropriate suppression response on wildfires that elude initial attack.

- Follow the most restrictive management area direction to limit fire size when a wildfire may overlap into two or more management areas.

- Fires started by unplanned ignitions may be used to achieve Forest Plan objectives if the area is planned for prescribed fire and the fire situation meets a current fire prescription."

Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers (Fire Management)

"Potential Recreation, Scenic and Wild River Segments:

- Prescribed fire may be used to change, establish, or maintain vegetation in potential scenic and recreational segments after considering site conditions, fire effects, and costs. Prescribed fire to change or establish vegetation in wild segments will be discouraged.

- Wildfire suppression tactics and holding lines for prescribed fire will consider the potential damage to recreational amenities, visual quality (foreground and middle ground), threatened and endangered species, and cultural sites unique to the area."

B. Fire Management Direction and Program Guidance

NOTE: This section provides a brief description of the fire management direction contained in the Appendix D of the Clearwater Forest Plan. Only relevant Forest Plan direction as it relates to current Federal Fire Policy is displayed below.

The Clearwater National Forest will provide fire protection and fire use necessary to maintain and enhance resource values while meeting the management goals and objectives. Fire management is a support function integrated and responsive to the management direction established in the Forest Plan.

The National Fire Management Analysis System is one process used to develop the Forest's annual fire budget request. The main objective is to achieve fire management direction in the most cost-effective manner.

All resource programs affected by fire will consider these base concepts in the formulation of plans, decisions, and actions:

1. "Fire has been an integral part of all ecosystems in Clearwater National Forest and the exclusion of fire from these ecosystems causes effects that may be undesirable.
2. As a result of fire protection, natural fuels in some areas have increased in amount and continuity to a hazardous level.
3. Prescribed fire from planned and unplanned ignitions can be used to achieve many land management objectives.
4. Permit fire in the wilderness to the maximum extent possible.

In addition to Forestwide and management area direction:

A. Reduce the cost of presuppression and suppression activities by integrating the total fire management program.

   1. Manage activity and natural fuel loadings by reducing to acceptable levels through utilization, i.e., firewood and fuelwood.

   2. Maintain aggressive fire suppression capability to support land management objectives and prescribed fire programs.

   3. Be cost-conscious in presuppression and suppression activities when selecting the appropriate suppression response for wildfires.

B. Provide a continuous cadre of specialists with the knowledge and experience to accomplish the prescribed fire programs.

C. Prepare project plans for prescribed fires using planned ignitions to meet land management objectives.

D. Develop an annual Fire Management Action Plan (now FMP) that will document the fire management program for that period.

E. Allow prescribed fire, both unplanned and planned ignitions, to achieve land management objectives. Each management area has written direction on where and when fire might be used.

F. Collect sufficient funds from timber sales to treat activity fuel loadings created during each sale.

Table 2. **Summary of Fire Management Direction by Management Area**

Clearwater N. F. Appendix D

***Fire Management Direction (Decade 1)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Strategies Allowed					Prescribed Fire					
Mgt. Area ID.	(MAC)	Primary Resource Emphasis	Confine	Contain	Control	Max. Burned Acres	Probable Loss From Fire (2)	Acres	MIH Code	Unplanned Inition	Activity Fuels Acres	MIH Code	Priority
A2	0.8	Rec.	NO	NO	Yes	.1	H			NO			
A3	51	Rec.	Yes	Yes	Yes	(3)	M	Unsch.	P12	Yes			
A4	55.3	Rec.	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	H	Unsch	P12	Yes	94	A01,P11	6
A5	1.8	Rec.	NO	NO	Yes	0	H			NO			
A6	18.8	Rec.	Yes	Yes	Yes	10	H	Unsch	P12	Yes	31	A01,P11	8
A7	23.6	Rec.	Yes	Yes	Yes	(4)	H	300	P12	Yes		C02,P11 P12	4
B1	259.2	Wildn.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unsch.	L	Unsch	P12	Yes			
B2	198.2	Wildn	Yes	Yes	Yes	500	L	Unsch	P12	Yes			
C1	45.1	WLDF	Yes	Yes	Yes	1000	L	Unsch	P12	Yes			
C3	34.4	WLDF	Yes	Yes	Yes	100	L	1000	P12	Yes		C02,P12	2
C4	75.5	WLDF	Yes	Yes	Yes	40	L	Unsch	P12	Yes	1007	C02,P12	3
C6	102.4	FISH	Yes	Yes	Yes	(7)	H	Unsch	P12	Yes			
C8S	207.5	Wldf/Tim	Yes	Yes	Yes	(5)	M-H	Unsch	P12	Yes	3099	P11	7
E1	582.7	TIM	Yes	Yes	Yes	(5)	M-H			NO	3383	E04,P11	1
E3	13	TIM	Yes	Yes	Yes	(5)	M-H	Unsch	P12	Yes	64	P11	10
M1	4	RNA	NO	NO	Yes	0	H	Unsch	P12	Yes			
M2	127.4	RIP	Yes	Yes	Yes	(6)	H	Unsch	P12	Yes	3516	P11	5
M5	105.3	Unsch.	Yes	Yes	Yes	(6)	L	Unsch	P12	Yes			

* See explaination of heading in the Forest Plan.

(1) - Consistent with adjacent management areas.
(2) - Fire loss is defined as those acres damaged sufficiently by wildfire to impair their ability to fulfill their management emphsis.
(3) - A3 - Within Elizabeth Lakes area 30 acres or less. Within other areas 100 acres or less.
(4) - A7 - Within elk winter browse areas 40 acres or less. Within timbered areas .1 acres or less.
(5) - C8s, E1, E3 - Plantation etc. 1 acre or less. Mature timber 40 acres or less. Brushfields 500 acres or less.
(6) - M2, M5 - Acreage dependent upon direction of adjacent management areas.
(7) - C6 - Acreage dependent upon analysis of potential burn areas.

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II. Nez Perce National Forest

NOTE: The terminology in the Nez Perce Forest Plan is not consistent with that of the 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy.

A. Forest-wide Goals and Desired Conditions

The following goals, objectives and standards have been extracted from the 1987 Nez Perce Forest Plan and are relevant to fire management as fire may be the tool used to accomplish a goal, objective or standard.

GOALS

Air Quality

- "Maintain air quality to meet or exceed applicable standards and regulations

Wildlife

- Provide and maintain a diversity and quality of habitat to support viable populations of native and desirable non-native wildlife species.

Protection

- Protect resource values through cost-effective fire and fuels management, emphasizing fuel treatment through the utilization of material and using prescribed fire."

OBJECTIVES

Air Quality

- "Wildernesses and Wild and Scenic River corridors are designated as Class I, and all other areas of the Forest are designated as Class II for air quality (Clean Air Act, 1977 amendment). Management activities will be designed and scheduled to meet the applicable standards for each classification. Regional air quality standards will be maintained through cooperation with the State of Idaho.

Wildlife

- Elk winter range and summer habitat are high management priorities; at present, winter range is the limiting factor. An average of 5,000 acres of winter range will be treated by prescribed fire annually in order to maintain winter range carrying capacity at about 23,000 animals by the end of the Plan period (1997). Road access and timber sale scheduling will be coordinated to achieve the elk summer habitat objectives.

Protection

- The Forest will plan, implement, and maintain a fire management program that minimizes the cost plus net value change. This level of protection is determined through the National Fire Management Analysis System. For the Nez Perce National Forest, the expected annual burned acreage at the most cost-efficient level is 2,300 acres."

Table 3. Projected outputs by time period (1987 Nez Perce LRMP)

			Average Annual Units				
			Planned	Projected			
Target Item 1/	Output or Activity	Unit of Measure	1988-1997	1998-2007	2008-2017	2018-2027	2028-2037
Protection T23	Fuels Mgmt Activity & Natural Fuels	Acres	4,540	6,265	8,730	9,526	10,113

STANDARDS

The following standards apply to National Forest land administered by the Nez Perce National Forest. They are intended to supplement, not replace, the National and Regional policies, standards, and guidelines found in Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks and the Northern Regional Guide.

Air Quality

- "Cooperate with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). Meet the requirements of the SIP and State Smoke Management Plan.

Protection

- Fire management direction in this Forest Plan shall guide the Fire Management Analysis and the resulting Fire Management Action Plan".

  "Fire management direction for wildfire and prescribed fire is shown for each management area in Chapter III of the Forest Plan. Control of wildfire is an option for all management areas. This is necessary because at some time, depending on location, expected fire behavior, and values at risk, all fires may have to be controlled.

  The prescribed fire planned ignition option is for those management areas where burning will be done to achieve management objectives such as browse rehabilitation, slash disposal, site preparation, etc.

  Appendix C of the Forest Plan contains more specific fire management direction and explains the Fire Management Analysis System.

- Undertake hazard reduction treatments if activity-created fuels exceed 12 tons per acre of materials less than 3 inches in diameter. Base assessments on the "Slash Hazard Appraisal."

- Minimize the impacts of the mountain pine beetle and other insect and disease infestations to the extent necessary to achieve the overall goals and objectives of this Forest Plan.

- Control insect and disease infestations through the application of Integrated Pest Management principles."

A summary of fire management direction by Management Area is shown in Table 4 at the end of section II.

B. Fire Management Direction and Program Guidance

NOTE: This section provides a brief description of the fire management direction contained in Appendix O of the Nez Perce Forest Plan. Only relevant Forest Plan direction as it relates to current Federal Fire Policy is displayed below.

The Nez Perce National Forest will provide for resource protection and fire use necessary to protect, maintain, and enhance resource values and attain land management goals and objectives.

Fire Management is a support function integrated with and responsive to the land and resource management direction established in the Forest Plan.

The National Fire Management Analysis System is one process used to develop the Forest's annual fire budget request. The main objective is to achieve fire management direction in the most cost-effective manner.

Because all Forest resources can be affected by fire, managers should carefully consider these basic concepts when forming plans, decisions, and actions:

1. Fire and the exclusion of fire have played a major role in the development of the ecosystems on the Nez Perce National Forest as we know them.
2. Prescribed fire from both planned and unplanned ignitions can be used to achieve land management objectives.
3. Fire management planning must consider fire application and ecological effects to provide all valid options for effective land management.
4. Aesthetic, visual, soil, air, and water quality concerns will dictate fire management direction in some areas.
5. Fuel buildup resulting from effective fire suppression has complicated fire management options in some areas.

The following direction is to ensure that fire use programs are cost-effective, compatible with the role of fire in forest ecosystems and responsive to resource management objectives:

1. Prescribe fire to maintain healthy, dynamic ecosystems that meet land management objectives.
2. Maintain an adequate cadre of well-qualified prescribed fire experts. Apply both technical knowledge and field experience in accomplishing prescribed fire needs.
3. Emphasize fire ecology implications when applying prescribed fire.
    a. Use fire ecology and fire management reference documents to guide project development, execution, and evaluation.
    b. Integrate an understanding of the role fire plays in regulating stand structure into the development of silvicultural prescriptions.

c. Emphasize the use of prescribed fire in range and wildlife habitat improvement projects.

d. Fire will be permitted in wilderness to the extent possible within prescriptions that provide for protection of life, property, and adjacent resources.

e. Prescribed fire programs will be responsive to National, State, and local air quality regulations and agreements.

f. An active inform and involve program is necessary to ensure public involvement, understanding, and approval of prescribed fire programs.

The following direction is to ensure that the fire presuppression programs are cost-effective and responsive to the Forest Plan.

1. Fire management direction emphasizes cost-effectiveness when selecting alternatives that will accomplish management objectives of the Forest Plan.
2. Unplanned ignitions will be managed as prescribed fires in predetermined areas under conditions that meet established prescriptions.
3. Suppression options other than control will be considered in some areas under established conditions.
4. The responsible line officers can require control in any Forest Plan Management Area at any time.

A summary of fire management direction by Management Area from the 1987 Revised Nez Perce Land and Resource Management Plan is shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Summary of Fire Management Direction by Management Area

	Forest Management Options				
	Wildfire			Prescribed Fire	
Management Area	Control	Contain	Confine	Unplanned	Planned
1	X	X	X	X	X
2	X				X
3	X	X	X	X	X
4					
6	X	X	X	X	X
7	X				X
8.1	X	X	X	X	X
8.2	X	X	X	X	X
8.3	X	X	X	X	X
9.1	X	X	X	X	X
9.2	X	X	X	X	X
9.3	X	X	X	X	X
10	X	X	X		X
11	X	X	X	X	X
12	X	X	X		X
13	X	X	X		X
14	X	X	X		X
15	X	X	X		X
16	X	X	X	X	X
17	X	X	X		X
18	X	X	X	X	X
19	X	X	X		X
20	X	X	X		X
21	X	X	X		X
22	X	X	X		X
23	X	X	X		X

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Section III
Fire Management Strategies

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Fire Management Plan
Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

Section III- Fire Management Strategies

A. General Management Considerations

This section establishes the program direction for wildland fire and fuels management activities, practices and mitigation measures to accomplish land and natural resource management objectives on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. Fire Management Policy directs federal agencies to achieve a balance between suppression to protect life, property, and resources, and the appropriate implementation of wildland fire use and prescribed fire to regulate fuels and maintain healthy ecosystems. This policy direction allows an appropriate management response to wildland fires occurring on national forest land, and is a consideration inherent in the fire management activities pursued under this FMP.

Fire will be integrated into land and resource management plans and activities on a landscape scale, and to the extent feasible, across agency boundaries. This Fire Management Plan recognizes that response to wildland fire should be based on the ecological, social and legal consequences of the fire. The circumstances under which fire occurs, and the probable consequences for firefighter, public safety, natural and cultural resources and values to be protected will guide the management response to a fire. Wildland fire suppression is one key component of appropriate management response; wildland fire use is another.

Natural ignitions will be managed as Wildland Fire Use events in predetermined areas and under conditions that are within established prescriptions. Further, it is recognized that suppression options other than control are indicated in some areas under established conditions; and, the responsible line officer can require control of any wildland fire in any Forest Plan Management Area at any time.

Success and failure is not always measured as it once was. The Fire Doctrine was established to create an organization guided by well stated doctrinal principles, which represent the reality of the work, the environment, and the mission. They are the heart of safe and effective mission accomplishment, being responsive to changing mandates of the organization. Rather than a set of rules where success is measured by the absence or occurrence of bad outcomes, doctrine recognizes a set of principals that guide proper decision making and allow for judgment. For more on the Foundational and Guiding Principals for the Northern Region visit http://fsweb.r1.fs.fed.us/fire/new_site/NR_Doctrine.pdf.

B. Wildland Fire Management Goals

The following 2 bullet statements are Clear/Nez Zone goals for 2007:

- Fire and Fuels personnel will collaborate with partners (County, State and other Federal agencies) in implementing the Community Wildfire Protection Plans. The intent will be to implement both mechanical and prescribed burn projects, leveraging funding where possible with grants and other agencies resources, to effectively protect communities identified as at risk in those plans. These plans must take into consideration the Regional Restoration and Protection Strategy.

- Reducing risk to communities will, over time, allow land managers the opportunity to make the appropriate management response to all wildfires. The appropriate management response policy which we expect to be implemented in FY07 will reduce exposure for our wildland firefighters, establish a more natural role for fire where appropriate, and allow line officer to make good decisions that will reduce firefighting costs.

The protection of human life is, and will be, the highest priority. Other priorities include protecting communities and improvements, and natural and cultural resources. Once firefighters are assigned to an incident, they become the highest value to be protected. Both national forests will ensure their capability to provide safe, cost-effective fire management programs in support of land and resource management plans with adequate planning, staffing, training, equipment and management personnel in place.

Success in managing prescribed fire and wildland fire use events is dependent upon the estimated effects measured against site specific resource objectives and desired conditions. A primary goal of these activities is to promote restoration and maintenance of the desirable ecosystem characteristics based upon the historic variability for a particular landscape.

Clear/Nez fire management personnel will coordinate efforts to ensure that all fire management incidents and operations are executed in a safe, carefully planned, cost efficient manner. Coordination, cooperation and consistency in decision processes, risk management, complexity determinations and mitigation, established safety standards and personnel qualifications will be assured.

Prescribed Fire Plans and Wildland Fire Implementation Plans shall be based on:

- The land and resource management objectives and desired conditions for the area as described in the LRMP and tiered to the site specific NEPA analysis;
- The known relationships between pre-burn environmental factors, expected fire behavior and probable fire effects which clearly define the parameters for a reasonable decision;
- The art and science of effectively and efficiently using fire as a tool to achieve specific conditions; and
- The experience gained from similar treatments in areas with like ecological capabilities.

C. Wildland Fire Management Options

APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE is any specific action suitable to meet Fire Management Unit (FMU) objectives. Typically, the AMR ranges across a spectrum of tactical options (from monitoring to intensive management actions). The AMR is developed by using FMU strategies and objectives identified in the Fire Management Plan. A list of options available and evaluation criteria for developing an AMR is found in the RED BOOK chapter 10, 10-2 to 3 at http://www.fire.blm.gov/Standards/redbook.

WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION is implemented to suppress unwanted wildland fires at minimum cost, considering firefighter and public safety and values to be protected, using the full range of strategic and tactical options and utilizing a decision making process that evaluates alternative management strategies against selected criteria. Suppression as an appropriate management response includes control, containment, or confinement of a wildland fire. An unplanned, unwanted wildland fire, including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, will be suppressed.

WILDLAND FIRE USE is the management of naturally-ignited wildland fires to protect, maintain and enhance resource values. Fire will be allowed, when possible, to function in its natural ecological role under a set of predetermined conditions compatible with the specific objectives disclosed in the area-specific Guidebook. Currently, the Frank Church River of No Return and Gospel Hump Wilderness Areas on the Nez Perce National Forest, Clearwater Fire Management Unit on the Clearwater National Forest, and the Selway Bitterroot Fire Management Unit on both the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests are areas that allow wildland fire use. These fire management activities are governed by this Fire Management Plan and approved Guidebooks appended to this FMP by reference.

PRESCRIBED FIRE is the management of fires ignited by qualified Burn Bosses to change resource conditions and meet site-specific objectives. These actions result from integrated planning efforts and require a prescribed fire burn plan. The burn plan describes the conditions under which the fire may be ignited, whether by hand, ground-based vehicle or aerial application. Each plan will have a silvicultural prescription from which the burn objectives and related burning prescription will be derived.

NON-FIRE APPLICATIONS include mechanical and non-mechanical treatments, and herbicide application. These treatments are designed to remove or rearrange fuels to mitigate the consequences of wildland fire, and allow for efficient and safe appropriate management responses to wildland fire ignitions. In areas where prescribed fire opportunities may be limited, these treatments are especially useful to address concerns related to safety or smoke. Non-fire treatments can also be used to prepare areas for future fire applications by removing excessive ladder and surface fuels. Mechanical treatments can be effective in disrupting horizontal and vertical continuity of fuels, removing larger fuels, and selectively treating large areas with a defined prescription.

D. Description of Wildland Fire Management Strategies by Fire Management Unit (FMU)

The FMUs are developed by focusing on key multiple resource management objectives as outlined in the LRMP. The FMUs are definable by objectives, management constraints, topographic features, access, values to be protected, political boundaries, fuel types or major fire regime groups, etc. Each FMU is unique with regard to management strategies, objectives and attributes. Each FMU is delineated on a Forest map (see Appendix P for Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest FMU Maps).

Table 5. FMU strategy summary

Forest	NAME	EMPHASIS	Management Option Strategies
NPF	Nez Perce General Forest Timber Protection	Suppression	Focus on suppression, with some modified suppression allowed, and prescribed fire for hazardous fuel reduction
NPF	Nez Perce General Forest Resource Protection	Appropriate Suppression	Suppression or Modified Suppression, and Prescribed Fire
NPF	Selway Bitterroot	WFU	Wildland Fire Use for resource benefit
NPF	Gospel-Hump Wilderness	WFU	Wildland Fire Use for resource benefit
NPF	Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness	WFU	Wildland Fire Use for resource benefit
NPF	Rapid River	WFU	Wildland Fire Use for resource benefit
CWF	Wildland Fire Suppression	Suppression	Focus on suppression, with some modified suppression allowed, and prescribed fire for hazardous fuel reduction
CWF	Wildland Fire Appropriate Suppression	Appropriate Suppression	Suppression or Modified Suppression, and Prescribed Fire
CWF	Clearwater WFU	WFU	Wildland Fire Use for resource benefit

Two new Wildland Fire Use (WFU) areas will be approved this year on the Nez Perce Forest. Both areas were approved in the 1987 Forest Plan, but will be included in a Wildland Fire Use Guidebook. The Rapid River WFU area is on the southwest corner of the Salmon River District and will be included as WFU so as not to restrict the Payette National Forest from managing their "boundary" fires for resource benefit as has occurred historically. The other WFU addition is on the Moose Creek District in the Selway Bitterroot Wilderness (SBW) WFU area and is the result of a land swap.

Historical Fire Occurrence

The Clear/Nez Fire Zone previous 10 year average is 208 wildland fires per year; 164 occur on the Nez Perce NF (20 are WFU) and 117 occur on the Clearwater NF (11 are WFU). In

2006 our fire occurrence was slightly higher on both forests: 200 on the NPF (32 were WFU) and 108 on the CWF (32 were WFU). However acreage burned on both forests was significantly higher, nearly 4 times greater in 2006 than the previous 10 year average.

The vast majority, about 90%, of the fires are lightning caused. Historically, timber values have had an impact on fire management on both national forests. More recently, an increasing number of fires occurring in wilderness and un-roaded areas have been managed as wildland fire use events for resource benefit. Table 1, on the following page, provides an explanation of the fire regimes and forest types present within the Clear/Nez Zone. These fire regimes have been significantly altered in some areas.

Weather Information

Weather varies greatly across the zone. High temperatures vary from over 100 degrees, in the river canyons, to the 70s at high elevations. Rainfall varies from 18 to 40 inches and snow can fall during any month of the year. Weather systems generally move from southwest to northeast and are influenced greatly by the continental divide. Large amounts of lightning are generated by thunderstorms in the summer months. Fire season usually begins in late June and slows in late September. Since 1990, the season ending date has generally moved to a later date in September or into October.

Weather monitoring is accomplished through a network of stations, both manual and automated. Their locations are as follows:

Table 6. Clear-Nez RAWS stations.

Station	Type	Forest	Station	Type	Forest
Dent	Automated	CWF	Dixie	Manual	NPF
Eagle	Automated	CWF	Elk City	Manual	NPF
Kelly	Automated	CWF	Fenn	Automated	NPF
Pierce	Automated	CWF	Grangeville	Automated	NPF
Potlatch	Automated	CWF	Moose Creek	Automated	NPF
Powell	Automated	CWF	Red River	Automated	NPF
Roundtop	Automated	CWF	Slate Creek	Automated	NPF
Shock	Automated	CWF			

For more detailed descriptions of fire history and weather, refer to the fire use guidebooks for the Selway-Bitterroot, Gospel Hump and Frank Church wilderness areas and the Clearwater Fire Management Unit and the Clearwater/Nez Perce Fire Danger Operating Plan.

Table 7: Fire Regimes and Habitat Types of the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

Habitat Type	Fire Regime	Fire Interval	Habitat Composition
Western redcedar	Lethal, Non-uniform, Stand Replacement.	197-230 years	Grand fir, Western larch, Western white pine, Douglas-fir, and Engelmann spruce are the major components with Western redcedar predominating. Drier Cedar sites show evidence of non-lethal ground fires. This regime typically occurs on the cool, moist creek and valley bottoms.
Lodgepole pine/ Subalpine fir	Lethal, Uniform, Stand Replacement.	43-155 years	Subalpine fir and Hemlock can be components of these stands. On drier, less steep sites with exclusively lodgepole pine, underburning with a non-lethal, non-uniform spread patterns can occur. This regime occurs on cold, dry habitat types at high elevations (5000-6000 feet).
Douglas-fir/Subalpine fir/Engelmann spruce	Uniform, Stand Replacement.	+190 years	Lodgepole pine, Western larch, and Mountain hemlock may be associated with this habitat type. This regime is very well represented on the Forest and occurs on cool, moist aspects usually at high elevations (5000-6000 feet).
Douglas-fir/Grand fir	Uniform, Lethal, Stand Replacement.	50-155 years	These sites are usually dominated by Grand fir within the overstory and understory layers. On some sites it has been found that a non-uniform fire pattern of lethal and non-lethal underburning has occurred with frequencies of 50-100years. This habitat type usually occurs at mid elevations across the Forest.
Ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir/Grand fir	Patchy, Non Lethal, Underburning.	+30 years	Barrett described short return intervals in this habitat type on the Clearwater. Understory is mainly comprised of Grand fir usually predominating the stand later in the cycle. This type generally occurs between 1800-5300 feet elevation. These types are typical to the high energy, low elevation slopes of Kelly Creek, Cayuse Creek, Weitas Creek, and the North Fork Clearwater River.
Ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir	Non-Lethal, Underburn.	15-20 years	Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are generally the only tree species hardy enough to survive this hot, dry environment. The lowest elevation, highest energy aspects of the larger creeks and rivers are represented by this regime. Highly effective suppression efforts have resulted in a marked change in the amount of ladder fuels, overstory fuels, and woody debris accumulation on these sites.

Nez Perce National Forest Fire Management Units

General Forest Timber Protection (Wildland Fire Suppression Emphasis) FMU

This FMU is comprised of 557,360 acres of Forest land and emphasizes timber protection. The Unit is bounded by the Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area on the Southwest, Main Salmon River on the South, Frank Church-River of No Return and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness areas and their associated roadless areas on the East-Northeast, and the forest boundary on the Northwest (See NPF FMU Map in Appendix).

The Timber units contain very diverse physical and biotic communities. Some timber units are in medium-high visually sensitive areas and some are managed for deer and elk winter range. Vegetation type is varied from river breaks with flashy fuels to high alpine fir with drainage/ridge communities in between. Ponderosa pine with a grass understory is the typical habitat on hot, dry river breaks. Douglas-fir is common in low elevation sites, where it is becoming established beneath the pine overstory, and at higher elevations beyond the range of Ponderosa pine. Lodgepole pine is abundant at sites above the river breaks. Western redcedar and Grand fir are found in areas at lower, moister sites. The Salmon River breaks are an example of steep, rugged terrain with fine, flashy fuels. The Nut Basin exemplifies a mid-elevation site with numerous relatively flat meadows and lakes surrounded by heavy timber and rocky peaks with scattered fuels. Whereas, the Dixie area represents a heavily timbered area with infrequent natural barriers creating a high possibility of stand replacing fires.

Topography is also extremely varied at all elevations. Therefore, fire behavior and historic fire regimes are extremely varied, from high frequency, low intensity to low frequency, high intensity stand replacing crown fires.

This FMU is the most restrictive on the Forest. The risk of loss from wildfire dictates the need for an immediate response to all new starts in this FMU. These are Forest Plan management areas that are associated with timber management, and are available for commercial timber harvest. The Timber Units make up about half of the general forest, are highly intermixed with the resource units and private land, and are generally found at mid-river breaks elevations and above (2000 feet to over 7500 feet). Goals for this management area are to provide for optimum, sustained production of wood products, provide adequate protection of soil and water, and manage viable elk populations within areas of historic use. Fire management goals are to control 95 percent of fires at 10 acres or less and to implement prescribed fire for fuel reduction and ecosystem maintenance. Strategies within this FMU are focused on a suppression response, but in some areas a modified suppression action could be implemented.

Wildland - urban intermix occurs in this FMU around the communities of Elk City, Red River, and Dixie. The climate of the units varies greatly, from over 100 degrees F in the river canyons during the summer, to the possibility of snow during any month at the highest elevations.

Rainfall amounts also vary widely with an annual rainfall of 36 inches at Fenn on the Selway River to 18 inches at Slate Creek on the Salmon River. Representative weather data can be obtained from RAWS sites at Fenn, Slate Creek and Red River.

General Forest Resource Protection (Wildland Fire Appropriate Suppression Emphasis) FMU

This FMU is comprised of 581,741 acres of Forest land and emphasizes resource protection. It is bounded by the Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area on the Southwest, Main Salmon River on the South, Frank Church-River of No Return and Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness FMU on the East-Northeast, and the forest boundary on the Northwest (See NPF FMU Map in Appendix P).

The appropriate management response is defined as the specific actions taken in response to a wildland fire to implement protection and/or fire use objectives. It allows managers to utilize a full range of responses. It does not lock tactical options to fire type designations. As conditions change, the particular response can change to accomplish the same objectives. It is important to note that the appropriate management response is not a replacement term for prescribed natural fire, or the suppression strategies of control, contain, confine, limited, or modified, but is a concept that offers managers a full spectrum of responses. It is based on objectives, environmental, and fuel conditions, constraints, safety, and ability to accomplish objectives. It includes wildland fire suppression at all levels, including aggressive initial attack. Use of this concept dispels the interpretation that there is only one way to respond to each set of circumstances (USDI/USDA 1998).

The Resource units within this FMU contain very diverse physical and biotic communities. Vegetation type is varied from river breaks with flashy fuels to high alpine fir with drainage/ridge communities in between. Ponderosa pine with a grass understory is the typical habitat on hot, dry river breaks. Douglas-fir is common in low elevation sites, where it is becoming established beneath the pine overstory, and at higher elevations beyond the range of Ponderosa pine. Lodgepole pine is abundant at sites above the river breaks. Western redcedar and Grand fir are found in areas at lower, moister sites. The Salmon River breaks are an example of steep, rugged terrain with fine, flashy fuels. The Nut Basin exemplifies a mid-elevation site with numerous relatively flat meadows and lakes surrounded by heavy timber and rocky peaks with scattered fuels. Whereas, the Dixie area represents a heavily timbered area with infrequent natural barriers and 130,000 acres of pine beetle damaged trees, creating a high possibility of stand replacing fires. Topography is also extremely varied at all elevations. Therefore, fire behavior and expected fire regimes are extremely varied, from high frequency, low intensity to low frequency, high intensity stand replacing crown fires.

This FMU represents mixed resource values, and includes remote, backcountry locations as well as interface areas at the Forest boundary. Lands within this FMU are to be managed for high value fisheries, key big game habitat, productive timber lands.

Management response within this FMU includes the following strategies – a suppression or modified suppression response, as well as using management ignited prescribed fire for resource benefit. Wildland - urban intermix occurs in this FMU around the communities of Elk City, Red River and Dixie. The climate of the units varies greatly, from over 100 degrees F in the river canyons during the summer, to the possibility of snow during any month at the highest elevations. Rainfall amounts also vary widely with an annual rainfall of 36 inches at Fenn on the Selway River to 18 inches at Slate Creek on the Salmon River. Representative weather data can be obtained from RAWS sites at Fenn, Slate Creek and Red River.

Selway Bitterroot FMU

The Selway Bitterroot Wilderness (SBW) straddles the border of north central Idaho and western Montana. It is one of the wilderness areas established by the 1964 Wilderness Act. Its 1.2 million acres include rugged alpine peaks, lake-strewn basins, forested lower slopes, and the dry Selway River corridor. Approximately 667,000 of these acres are on the Nez Perce National Forest. In addition to spectacular scenery and opportunities for solitude, the wilderness ecosystem contains unique disjunct coastal communities of western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*). Detailed descriptions of the geology, climate, vegetation, wildlife, and cultural features within the area managed under the existing Selway Bitterroot FMU are in the Environmental Statement, Fire Management in the Selway-Bitterrroot Wilderness (USDA 1976).

The SBW is managed to meet the intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964, and it has allowed management of natural fire since 1972 through the Prescribed Natural Fire program. These lands are managed for fire use under the Selway Bitterroot Wildland Fire Use Guidebook and jointly administered by the Bitterroot, Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests. The strategy for this FMU is to allow natural ignitions to restore the role of fire within this unit, depending on time of year. Early in the fire season, managers may suppress fires or use a strategy involving modified suppression.

Three, non-wilderness, roadless areas are also included in this FMU; they are described in the Selway Bitterroot Wildland Fire Use Guidebook. These areas are:

- **Meadow Creek East Roadless Area 1845D** - The Meadow Creek area is generally southwest of the wilderness boundary along the east side of Meadow Creek. Also within this area, is the Warm Springs Creek Research Natural Area.

- **Portion of the Rackliff-Gedney Roadless Area 1844** - The Rackliff-Gedney area extends from the western edge of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness down-river to the ridge between Slide Creek and Nineteenmile Creek within the Selway drainage.

- **Upper Bargamin Creek Roadless Area 1845D** - The Upper Bargamin Creek area is the area drained by Bargamin Creek exclusive of the wilderness.

This roadless area is located south of the Meadow Creek East Roadless Area and is bounded by forest road #285 on the west side, Forest road #468 (the Montana Road) and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness located near the southeast corner of the Upper Bargamin Creek Roadless Area.

Wildland fire use (WFU) for resource benefit is the primary management objective in the entire Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area. All fires that meet prescription parameters in the Selway Bitterroot Wildland Fire Use Guidebook (USDA 2005) will be managed as wildland fire use. Wilderness management policy prohibits the use of prescribed fire within wilderness unless it can be shown that the use of prescribed fire or other fuel treatment measures outside of wilderness is not sufficient to achieve fire management objectives within wilderness (FSM 2324.22). Wilderness policy further stipulates that prescribed fire (within wilderness) should

not be used to achieve wilderness fire management objectives where lightning-caused fires can achieve them (ibid.).

An amendment to the guidebook will incorporate language to remove structure protection from the Seminole Ranch, and allow lightening ignited fires to be managed for resource benefit. This area is in an MA approved for WFU in the 1987 Nez Perce LRMP.

For further information and direction regarding the previously described areas, refer to the Selway Bitterroot Wildland Fire Use Guidebook (USDA 2005). The Selway and Middle Fork Clearwater Rivers Subbasin Assessment (March, 2001) is another useful source of information, and provides a detailed look at much of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness ecosystem.

Gospel-Hump Wilderness FMU

The Gospel-Hump Wilderness (GHW) lies entirely within the central Idaho mountains on the Nez Perce National Forest. The Salmon River is the southern border of the wilderness. Management of the GHW is divided between the Salmon River and Red River Ranger Districts. The GHW encompasses approximately 206,000 acres, which include rugged alpine peaks over 8,900 feet high, numerous lakes and streams, forested lower slopes, and the dry Salmon River corridor at 1,900 feet.

The wilderness ecosystem includes diverse plant and animal species. Due to its proximity to area communities such as Grangeville and Elk City and their surrounding populations, the GHW is a favorite recreation destination for many. A road runs well into the interior of the wilderness area from the west, ending at Square Mountain Lookout. Because of past mining and grazing activities, the GHW shows more evidence of human activity than do other wilderness areas in central Idaho.

Two areas adjacent to the Gospel-Hump Wilderness may be incorporated for WFU implementation when the Nez Perce National Forest Plan is revised. They are:

The Boulder Creek Addition, located on the Salmon River District, is on the west side of the GHW. This area would add approximately 14,120 acres for WFU consideration. Slopes range from steep on the Salmon River breaks to fairly gentle in the uplands. Wildland fires in this area will usually burn upslope toward the wilderness boundary.

The opportunity for a fire to escape the wilderness boundary and cross over to the Boulder Creek Addition is remote because of the prevailing winds and the slow rate of spread of a backing fire. If an unforeseen wind event were to carry fire across the drainage, the escaped fire may burn commercial timber on the Nez Perce National Forest. No private timber holdings or residential areas exist, although Rocky Bluff campground may be threatened.

The **Moccasin Mountain Addition**, on the Red River Ranger District, is located adjacent to the southeast boundary of the GHW, and includes approximately 16,710 acres. Wildland fires will usually burn upslope and may top out on the ridge where the 222 road is located. Fires in the Salmon River Canyon tend to move along the river with the local wind patterns. These fires may originate in the wilderness and burn out into the Moccasin Mountain Addition. The

opportunity for fires to begin in the Addition and burn into the wilderness is remote. Two private in-holdings are located in the Moccasin Mountain Addition. They are the Indian Creek Ranch, and the Cove Ranch. The structures and private property would be a primary concern with regards to future WFU events in the area.

There are three established Research Natural Areas (RNA's) within the GHW (Fish Lake RNA, Square Mountain RNA, and Elk Creek RNA). The Forest Service Manual and the Nez Perce National Forest Plan direct RNA's to be managed for non-manipulative research, observation, and study of undisturbed ecosystems; therefore, natural processes in these areas are a prime concern requiring no special consideration for Wildland Fire Use. However, if a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan calls for any ground disturbing fire management activities within the RNA, the Forest RNA Coordinator must be contacted. It may be necessary to include the RNA Coordinator on the WFIP team when impacts to RNA's are anticipated.

The GHW Fire Management Plan for managing lightning-caused fires was first approved in 1984. Wildland fire use (WFU) is the primary management objective in the entire Gospel-Hump Wilderness area. All fires that meet prescription parameters in the Gospel-Hump Wildland Fire Use Guidebook (USDA 2000) will be managed as wildland fire use. Wilderness management policy prohibits the use of prescribed fire within wilderness unless it can be shown that the use of prescribed fire or other fuel treatment measures outside of wilderness is not sufficient to achieve fire management objectives within wilderness (FSM 2324.22). Wilderness policy further stipulates that prescribed fire (within wilderness) should not be used to achieve wilderness fire management objectives where lightning-caused fires can achieve them (ibid.).

For further information and direction in this FMU, refer to the Gospel-Hump Wildland Fire Use Guidebook (USDA 2000).

Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness FMU

The Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness (FC-RONR) encompasses 2,353,739 acres of federal lands in central Idaho. It is adjacent to, and to the south of, the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and the Gospel Hump Wilderness Areas.

Portions of Custer, Lemhi, and Valley Counties lie within the areas. The USDA Forest Service is responsible for the administration and management of these wildlands Two Forest Service Regions, (the Northern Region, R-1, and the Intermountain Region, R-4), four national forests (the Bitterroot, Nez Perce, Payette, and Salmon-Challis National Forests), and seven ranger districts administer Wildland Fire Use programs within the FC-RONR Wilderness.

The FC-RONR Wilderness covers an extremely large landmass, and diverse physical and biotic communities are represented within the area. This diversity, coupled with high recreation use, numerous private in-holdings, flashy fuel types, and high fire occurrence in the river corridors-adds to the fire management complexity of the area. Recreation use, especially whitewater boating on the Main, Middle Fork, and South Fork of the Salmon River is very high. Big game hunting in the fall also brings increased use to the area. This high recreation use will increase the chances of visitors coming in contact with fire and smoke associated with wildland fire use (WFU). Private in-holdings, generally located along major river corridors, also require safe guards to protect life and property from smoke and fire. Grass and timber fuel types in the river corridors and high fire occurrence provide the setting for large, fast-spreading fires.

The FC-RONR Wilderness has very diverse physical characteristics. It is dissected by two major river systems: the entire Middle Fork of the Salmon River (flowing south to north) and portions of the Main Salmon River (flowing east to west). The Lower South Fork of the Salmon River and the upper Selway River are also major drainages with in the area. The river systems separate three major mountain ranges: the Clearwater Mountains and Bitterroot Mountains north of the Salmon River and the Salmon River Mountains south of the Main Salmon on either side of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The intersection of these river systems and mountain ranges has created a physical environment with a variety of different physiographic areas, resulting in a diverse, interrelated fire management situation.

There are no areas outside of wilderness included in this FMU on the Nez Perce National Forest.

Wildland fire use (WFU) is the primary management objective in the entire FC-RONR Wilderness area. All fires that meet prescription parameters in the FC-RONR Wilderness Fire Use Management Guidebook (USDA 2001) will be managed as wildland fire use.

For further information and direction in this FMU, refer to the FC-RONR Wilderness Wildland Fire Use Management Guidebook (USDA 2001).

Rapid River Wildland Fire Use FMU

The Rapid River FMU is a non-wilderness WFU area that encompasses approximately 12,928 acres of federal lands in central Idaho. It is located in the southwest corner of the Nez Perce Forest and Salmon River District, and is adjacent to the Payette Forest and Hells Canyon RNA. This area is comprised of MA 11 and 8, with are both approved for WFU by the 1987 Nez Perce Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan. A guidebook is currently being developed to outline prescriptive parameters and adhere to policy. The primary purpose of this FMU is to expand potential opportunities for Wildland Fire Use fires on the Payette (Region 4) and Wallowa-Whitman (Region 6) National Forests and late season opportunities for the Nez Perce Forest. This will lessen any geopolitical boundary concerns while allowing fire to assume its natural role in the ecosystem.

The Rapid River Wild and Scenic River corridor (Management Area 8) bisects Management Area 11 and encompasses approximately 2,000 acres. The Wild and Scenic River corridor extends 1/4 mile on each side of the river.

Both the Payette and Wallowa-Whitman (Hells Canyon Wilderness) have relatively large expanses of Fire Use areas that are enhanced by the Nez Perce Rapid River Fire Use area. This addition will allow appropriate fire use in the Rapid River area and extent management options for the adjacent Fire Use areas.

The Rapid River Fire Use area Guidebook will follow the 2005/06 Wildland Fire Use Implementation Procedures Reference Guide and the 2007 Clearwater Nez Perce Fire Management Plan.

Clearwater National Forest Fire Management Units

Wildland Fire Suppression Emphasis FMU

This FMU is comprised of 418,447 acres derived from the Forest Plan management areas that are associated with timber management, and are available for commercial timber harvest. Forest Plan goals for this management area are to provide for optimum, sustained production of wood products, provide adequate protection of soil and water, and manage viable elk populations within areas of historic use. The risk of loss from wildfire dictates the need for an immediate response to all new starts in this FMU.

This FMU is the most restrictive on the Forest with regard to the range of appropriate management response. Strategies within this FMU are focused on a suppression response, but in some areas a modified suppression action could be implemented. Modified management response to a wildland fire results in curtailment of fire spread and eliminates all identified threats from the particular fire.

Lands within this FMU are gentle to steep, and access is generally good in these areas due to the number of Forest roads. Due to the wide span of ecosystems represented, the timber units contain very diverse physical and biotic communities and therefore a range of management concerns. Vegetation types vary from river breaks with flashy fuels to high alpine fir. Ponderosa pine with a grass understory is typical habitat on warmer, drier river breaks blending into Douglas-fir, which is common in low elevation sites and along river corridors, where it out-competes pine and larch. Western white pine is sparse while lodgepole pine is abundant at mid to high elevations. Englemann spruce and hemlock extend into subalpine fir and whitebark pine at the highest elevations. Western red cedar and grand fir are found in areas at lower, moist sites and frost pockets. Topography is extremely varied at all elevations and consequently, fire behavior and historic fire regimes are extremely varied, ranging from high frequency, low intensity to low frequency, high intensity stand replacing crown fires.

Wildland - urban intermix occurs in this FMU including various private in-holdings in the counties of Clearwater, Idaho, and Latah. The climate within these communities varies greatly, from over 100 degrees F in the river canyons during the summer to the possibility of snow during any month at the highest elevations. Rainfall amounts vary widely with an annual rainfall of 39 inches at Powell to 25 inches at Potlatch. Representative weather data can be obtained from RAWS sites at Potlatch, Pierce, and Powell.

Wildland Fire Appropriate Suppression FMU

This FMU is comprised of 115,023 acres of forest that include a timber and wildlife management focus.

Lands within this FMU are to be managed for high value fisheries, key big game habitat, productive timber lands, as well as using fire from both planned and unplanned ignitions to meet Forest Plan direction.

This FMU represents mixed resource values, and includes remote backcountry locations as well as urban-interface areas at the Forest boundary. Management response within this FMU includes an appropriate management response, and allows suppression, modified suppression, and prescribed fire.

An appropriate management response is defined as the specific actions taken in response to a wildland fire to implement protection and/or fire use objectives. It allows managers to utilize a full range of responses. It does not lock tactical options to fire type designations. As conditions change, the particular response can change to accomplish the same objectives. It is important to note that the appropriate management response is not a replacement term for prescribed natural fire, or the suppression strategies of control, contain, confine, limited, or modified, but is a concept that offers managers a full spectrum of responses. It is based on objectives, environmental, and fuel conditions, constraints, safety, and ability to accomplish objectives. It also includes wildland fire suppression at all levels, including aggressive initial attack. Use of this concept dispels the interpretation that there is only one way to respond to each set of circumstances.

Lands within this FMU are gentle to steep, and access is generally good in these areas due to the number of Forest roads. Due to the wide span of ecosystems represented, the timber units contain very diverse physical and biotic communities and therefore a range of management concerns. Vegetation types vary from river breaks with flashy fuels to high alpine fir. Ponderosa pine with a grass understory is typical habitat on warmer, drier river breaks blending into Douglas-fir, which is common in low elevation sites and along river corridors, where it out-competes pine and larch. Western white pine is sparse while lodgepole pine is abundant at mid to high elevations. Englemann spruce and hemlock extend into subalpine fir and whitebark pine at the highest elevations. Western red cedar and grand fir are found in areas at lower, moist sites and frost pockets. Topography is extremely varied at all elevations and consequently, fire behavior and historic fire regimes are extremely varied, ranging from high frequency, low intensity to low frequency, high intensity stand replacing crown fires.

Wildland - urban intermix occurs in this FMU consisting of various private in-holdings in the counties of Latah, Clearwater, and Idaho. The climate within these communities varies greatly, from over 100 degrees F in the river canyons during the summer to the possibility of snow during any month at the highest elevations. Rainfall amounts also vary widely with an annual rainfall of 39 inches at Powell to 25 inches at Potlatch. Representative weather data can be obtained from RAWS sites at Potlatch, Pierce, and Powell.

Clearwater Wildland Fire Use FMU

These lands consisting of 758,140 acres are areas of the Forest that, under the current Land Management Plan (1987), allow for the use of wildland fire to achieve resource objectives with planned and unplanned ignitions. Defensible boundaries, which protect adjacent high value areas, were established and follow major ridgelines, drainages, and major Forest roads, from which fire protection or fire suppression efforts could be successfully implemented. Fire starts within this unit have a low probability of impacting pre-existing human values, and therefore, can be managed to reduce natural fuel loadings, enhance long term resource benefits, and restore the natural role of fire. Values at risk are generally low within the unit, but fires can have the potential to impact adjoining units with much higher values. Wildland fire use is the primary strategy of this FMU, although other appropriate strategies can be used.

The Clearwater Fire Management Unit is a non-wilderness area allowing for management of wildland fire use with its own directive guidebook. The planning area encompasses 734,518 acres, bordered to the north by the Idaho Panhandle National Forest and to the east the Lolo National Forest. The planning area follows hydrological boundaries of the North Fork of the Clearwater River, Crooked Fork Creek, and other small tributaries of the Lochsa River.

The Clearwater Fire Management Unit was subdivided into eight areas based on major tributaries or specific landmarks in the area. A general description of these areas are as follows:

- ***Mallard Larkins*** – This area is characterized by all tributaries that flow into Skull Creek, Isabella Creek north of Goat Ridge, and tributaries that flow into the North Fork Clearwater River below Skull Creek from the north. The majority of this area is roadless with limited access in very steep and rugged country. Habitat types range from western red cedar in the lower reaches of Isabella and Skull Creeks to high elevation subalpine fir types in the Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area. The Aquarius Natural Research Area (3900 acres) borders this area on the southern boundary next to the North Fork Clearwater River.

- ***Upper North Fork*** – This area is defined as any tributaries that flow into the upper North Fork Clearwater River from the confluence of the North Fork and Kelly Creek, north to the Montana/Idaho border. Access is limited throughout this FMU, which is mostly roadless, and terrain ranges from gentle to steep. The predominant habitat types found in this area are grand fir at the lower elevations and lodgepole pine/subalpine fir at the higher elevations. A private mining venture that covers 300 acres exists in the Caledonia Creek drainage in the northwest corner of the Upper North Fork area.

- ***Kelly Creek*** – This area includes all tributaries that flow into Kelly Creek with the exception of Cayuse Creek and land south of Kelly Creek and below Cayuse Creek to Kelly Forks Work Center. A large majority of this area is

recommended wilderness in the Forest Plan. Large tracts of roadless areas are found within the Kelly Creek drainage. Terrain within this area is characterized as steep and rugged with little access. Predominant habitat types in this area are lodgepole pine/subalpine fir, which is typical in the "Great Burn." This area includes the Steep Lakes Natural Research Area (784 acres), as well as the proposed Rhodes Peak Natural Research Area (307 acres). There are private land-in holdings in this area at Deception Saddle and west of Moose City on Independence Creek.

- ***Crooked Fork*** – These lands are defined as any tributaries that flow into the Lochsa River north and west of Forest road 595 to the Montana/Idaho border. The area is roadless and steep with habitat types of Douglas-fir/grand fir at the lower elevations, and lodgepole pine/subalpine fir at the higher elevations. A small portion of forest road 500 (Lewis and Clark trail) travels through the southern portion of this area, and is a popular route for forest visitors. The Forest is experiencing somewhat higher public use in this area with the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial (2004 through 2006). A portion of the proposed Rhodes Peak Research Natural Area falls within the area.

- ***Cayuse Creek*** – These lands are described as all tributaries that flow into Cayuse Creek. The area is roadless, with the exception of Forest road 581, which divides the Kelly Creek drainage from the Cayuse Creek drainage, and Forest road 500, which divides the Cayuse drainage from the Lochsa River drainage. Terrain is steep and access is limited with predominately lodgepole pine habitat types.

- ***Junction Mountain*** – This area is defined by all tributaries that flow into the North Fork of the Clearwater River on the south side from Cayuse Creek to Weitas Creek along Forest roads 250 and 255. This area is completely roadless and is managed for big game winter and summer habitat, and for quality, dispersed recreational opportunities. The terrain within this area is characterized as steep and rugged with limited access. Habitat types consist of grand fir at lower elevations and more pure stands of subalpine fir and mountain hemlock at higher elevations.

- ***Weitas Creek*** – This area is described by all tributaries that flow into Weitas Creek. Lands within this area are managed for big game summer and winter habitat. Access within the area is limited to Forest roads 555 or 500. Terrain is mostly steep and is mainly accessed by trails. Grand fir is the predominant habitat type. The Bald Mountain Research Natural Area (370 acres) borders this area along Forest road 500.

- ***Pot Mountain*** – This area is defined as all tributaries north of Forest road 250 that flow into the North Fork Clearwater River from Kelly Forks Work Center to Skull Creek. Forest road 711 from Mush Saddle to Moscow Bar divides this area into different land allocations within the Forest Plan. Southwest of Forest road 711, the Pot Mountain area is virtually roadless and is managed for prime summer and winter big game habitat. Northeast of Forest road 711 the land is managed for timber and big game winter range. Terrain within the area is

steep and rugged and is mainly accessed by a trail system. Habitat types for this area are Douglas-fir/grand fir north of Forest road 711 and ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir south of the road on the North Fork Clearwater River face. The Chateau Falls Research Natural Area (200 acres) is in the southern portion of this area in Chateau and Cave Creeks.

- ***Lochsa* (2003 Addition) –** This 97,674 acre area was added in 2003 from the North Lochsa Face Project on the Lochsa Ranger District. Terrain is steep, undeveloped, isolated and inaccessible except by system trails and Forest road 500 on the northern boundary, and roads 483, 5542, and 5544 to the west. The boundary for this area on the east is an unnamed ridge between Sherman and Horn Creeks. The boundary follows the Lochsa River south then west to Deadman Creek, turning north and following Deadman Creek up to an unnamed tributary then continuing north to Frenchman Butte. From that point the boundary follows Forest road 483 west to Forest road 500, which is the northern most boundary of the Lochsa Wildland Fire Use area. Habitat types vary within this area from western red cedar at the lowest elevations, Douglas-fir/grand fir at mid elevations, and lodgepole pine/subalpine fir at the higher elevations. The Lochsa Research Natural Area is adjacent to the west boundary of this area. *NOTE: This area is currently under litigation, but will remain included in the FMP for reference until a final decision is made.*

Research Natural Areas (RNA)

There are six established or proposed Research Natural Areas (RNA's) within or adjacent to the Clearwater Fire Management Unit including Chateau Falls, Rhodes Peak, Steep Lakes, Lochsa, Aquarius, and Bald Mountain. Forest Service Manuals direct RNA's to be managed for non-manipulative research, observation, and study of undisturbed ecosystems to protect their inherent natural features. The Clearwater Forest Plan direction states, "allow unplanned ignitions to burn under prescribed conditions within an RNA (proposed or existing) unless such fires threaten persons, property, or the uniqueness of the area" (USDA 1987b).

Natural processes in these areas area a prime concern requiring no special consideration for Wildland Fire Use. However, if a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan calls for any ground disturbing fire management activities within the RNA, consultation with the Forest RNA contact is required. A detailed description of RNA's can be found in the Clearwater Fire Management Unit Guidebook.

Selway Bitterroot (SBW) FMU

The Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness straddles the border of north-central Idaho and western Montana. Its 1.2 million acres include rugged alpine peaks, lake-strewn basins, forested lower slopes, and the dry Selway River corridor. The SBW FMU is located within four National Forests in the Northern Region; the Bitterroot, the Clearwater, the Lolo, and the Nez Perce. Approximately 260,897 of these acres are on the Clearwater Forest. Detailed descriptions of the geology, climate, vegetation, wildlife, and cultural features within the area managed under the existing Selway Bitterroot FMU are in the Environmental Statement (USDA 1976).

The SBW is managed to meet the intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The SBW has allowed management of natural fire since 1972 through the Prescribed Natural Fire program. These lands are managed for fire use under the Selway Bitterroot Wildland Fire Use Guidebook and jointly administered by the Bitterroot, Lolo, Nez Perce and Clearwater Forests. Strategy for this FMU is to allow natural ignitions to restore the role of fire within this unit depending on time of year. Early season fires may be suppressed or use a strategy involving modified suppression.

The Clearwater Forest portion of the SBW lies north of the Clearwater-Nez Perce Forest common boundary. From west to east, the SBW extends from Fire Creek Point to the Idaho/Montana border. In addition to spectacular scenery and opportunities for solitude, the wilderness ecosystem contains unique coastal disjunct communities of western redcedar (*Thuja plicata*) at lower elevations. Other habitat types consist of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir on the drier aspects, and Douglas-fir/grand fir. Upper elevations consist of lodgepole pine/subalpine fir/whitebark pine and Engelmann spruce/mountain hemlock. Expected fire behavior and effects are well documented in the literature (Williams 1992, Reinhardt 1997, among others) for SBW vegetation types. Considerations for this FMU are recreation, along with air and water quality.

Research Natural Areas

There are several established Research Natural Areas (RNA's) within or adjacent to the SBW including Sneakfoot Meadows, Grave Peak, Fenn Mountain, Dutch Creek, and Bass Creek. Forest Service Manuals direct RNA's to be managed for non-manipulative research, observation, and study of undisturbed ecosystems to protect their inherent natural features. Clearwater Forest Plan direction states, "allow unplanned ignitions to burn under prescribed conditions within an RNA (proposed or existing) unless such fires threaten persons, property, or the uniqueness of the area" (USDA 1987b).

Natural processes in the SBW are a prime concern requiring no special consideration for Wildland Fire Use. However, if a Wildland Fire Implementation Plan calls for any ground disturbing fire management activities within the RNA, consultation with the Forest RNA contact is required. A detailed description of RNA's can be found in the Selway Bitterroot Wildland Fire Use Guidebook.

Area Additions to the Selway Bitterroot FMU

There are five non-wilderness area-additions, which allow the fire use management strategy, and are included in the SBW FMU. These lands lie generally to the north of the SBW boundary and south of the Lochsa River, and include:

Beaver Ridge- This area starts at Beaver Meadows and continues east along the south-facing slope of the Storm Creek drainage encompassing three north-slope cirque lake basins: Grimes Lake, Spruce Creek Lakes, and Beaver Lake.

White Sands- This addition is located south of trail 47 dropping down into White Sand Creek and Storm Creek, is bounded by Colt Creek to the south, and the Elk Summit road to the west. This area also takes in the Crab Creek drainage, White Sand Creek, and Savage Ridge.

Elk Summit- The next addition includes the area surrounding Elk Summit, north to the Colt Creek drainage, Sneakfoot Meadows RNA, and Walton Lakes basin.

Lochsa- The remaining area from the Walton Creek drainage west to Knife Edge Ridge on the Lochsa district contains the river face country that falls north from the SBW boundary down to the Lochsa River.

Fire Creek- This area addition encompasses the land from Knife Edge Creek, and follows the wilderness boundary to the ridgeline.

Section IV
Wildland Fire Management Program Components

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Section IV
Wildland Fire Management Program Components

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Fire Management Plan
Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

Section IV – Wildland Fire Management Program Components

A. General Implementation Procedures

1. Setting-Out Implementation Procedures

This Fire Management Plan (FMP) is the operational guide used to implement the fire management direction contained in the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest Land Management Plans (LMPs). *See Table 5. FMU Strategy Summary, Section III D.*

All appropriate management responses will hold firefighter and public safety as our highest priority.

All wildland fire starts will be consistent with management capabilities and assessed to determine the current and expected fire situation, establishment of probable fire cause and estimate of potential for fire spread. An appropriate management response will be selected based on:

- Fire cause: All human caused wildland fires will be suppressed.
- Risk to firefighter and public safety presented by the wildland fire and the management actions applied to it.
- Threat to the values to be protected as established by the goals, objective, standards and guidelines defined in the Land Management Plan.
- Conditions and parameters established in the approved Fire Management Plan for the specific Fire Management Unit
- National and Regional preparedness levels, local fire activity and the organizational capability to implement the preferred fire management response.
- Current and predicted fire weather
- A completed Wildland Fire Assessment, including WFIP and WFSA where required
- Cost efficiencies

All wildland fires will have an Initial Attack Fire Size Up completed; this can be found in Region 1 Incident Organizer. An appropriate suppression response will be initiated unless the fire is determined to be a candidate ignition for management as a wildland fire use incident. All wildland fires will have an Incident Complexity Analysis (Type 3, 4, 5)

completed, this can be found in the Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations (Red Book) Appendix 10-5.

The appropriate management response will be developed based on firefighter and public safety considerations, resource and cultural values at risk, and circumstances unique to the incident while providing for cost-effective management.

Whenever a fire escapes initial attack, the WFSA will be used to analyze the situation. For Type III, IV and V incidents, use the Extended Attack Transition Analysis (Incident Response Pocket Guide) to identify and mitigate safety issues by selecting a different strategy, tactic, or higher qualification of incident management personnel to safely and effectively manage the incident. In developing this analysis, certain assumptions are made:

- As the incident complexity escalates, the need for an Incident Management Team or organization increases accordingly.
- To facilitate assembling an efficient and effective organization, District Duty Officers (D.O.s) will be involved during the early stages of complexity analysis.
- The analysis is not a cure-all for the decision process. Local fire history, current fire conditions, staffing level, number of starts, minimum draw-down levels, and other management requirements must be considered.

B. WILDLAND FIRE SUPPRESSION

Fires will be suppressed considering firefighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected, consistent with resource objectives, at minimum costs.

All strategies for managing wildland fire suppression are dictated by the Clearwater and Nez Perce Land Management Plans (LMP) and federal fire policy FSM 5130. Both LMPs allow for the following tactics during suppression operations: Confine, Contain, Control, Monitoring or a combination of the above strategies.

District Rangers will be responsible for managing fires at the Type 3, 4 and 5 levels, and Wildland Fire Use events. The Forest Supervisor will be responsible for all Type I and II fires. See Appendix G for Forest and District Delegation of Authority Letters.

A suppression response will be initiated in situations including, but not limited to:

- Wildland fire that is human-caused
- Prescriptive criteria are outside of the range to allow wildland fire use for the individual Fire Management Unit.

The level of suppression response intensity will range from aggressive initial attack to a combination of strategies to achieve confinement. The charts shown in Figures 1 & 2 should be used to determine the suppression response intensity.

Figure 1. Appropriate Management Response – Full range available

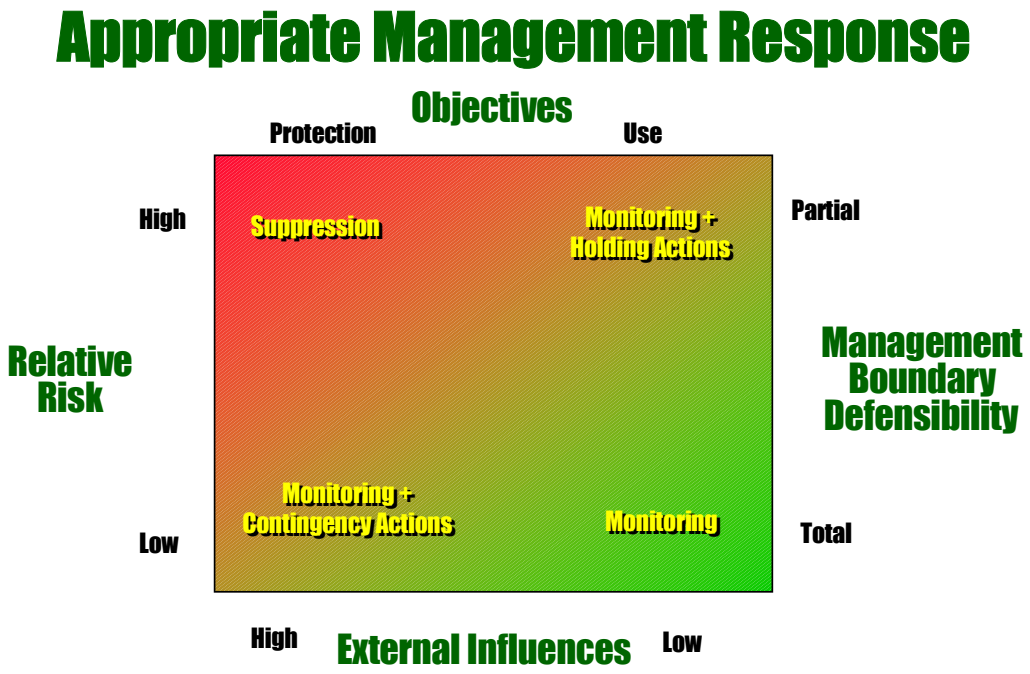
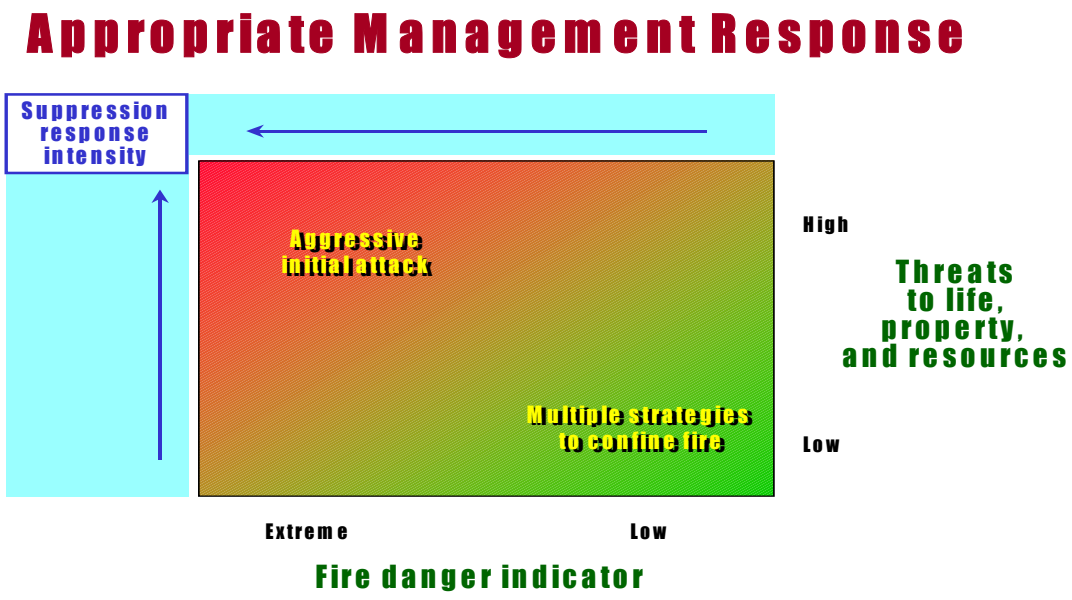


Figure 2. Appropriate Management Response – Suppression Response Intensity



1. Range of Potential Fire Behavior

Review of representative weather stations on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests indicate that Energy Release Component (ERC) and can be a reliable fire danger indicator to estimate potential fire behavior. Energy Release Components are displayed on the Clearwater and Nez Perce pocket cards using Fuel Model C and G (see Appendix R).

A variety of landscapes and vegetation types make up the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests and result in a wide range of potential fire behavior; from fast moving grass fires in the Salmon River breaklands to crownfires in dead and dying lodgepole and subalpine fire that covers much of the fire zone. Local thresholds for watch out situations occur with any combination of the following situations which can greatly increase fire behavior:

- 20' wind speeds > 15 mph
- RH < 20%
- Temperatures > 90°F

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have been developed from zone weather stations which combine common fuels, topography, and climate to reflect the range of fire potential across the zone.

Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center will broadcast daily indices in the fire weather forecasts.

Pocket cards will be updated to reflect logical groupings or SIGs, as decided by the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center working group.

Another indicator of potential for large fire growth is the Haines Index, which combines instability and dry air. Dry air affects fire behavior by lowering fuel moisture, which results in more fuels available for the fire and by increasing the probability of spotting. Instability affects fire behavior by enhancing the vertical size of the smoke column, resulting in strong surface winds as air rushes into the fire to replace air evacuated by the smoke column. The Haines index is included as part of the Zone Fire Weather Forecast on a daily basis and will be read by Dispatch when transmitting the Daily Fire Weather Forecast to field units.

Table 8. Haines Index, Potential for large fires

2 & 3	Very Low
4	Low
5	Moderate
6	High

2. Preparedness Actions

All preparedness activities will be conducted in a manner providing the appropriate level of protection from damage by wildland fire (FSM 5120.2) based upon annual budget allocations.

Preparedness includes planning for fire detection, dispatching of wildland fire forces, communication systems, rating of fire danger, fire weather monitoring, wildland fire training, fire prevention (includes community education, risk assessment, and assistance) and qualifications, and prescribed fire support on the Forests.

These activities will:

- Meet the direction contained in the Forest Land Management Plans and incorporate the 2001 Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy;
- Provide a proactive fire management program that supports resource management objectives;
- Ensure efficient, cost-effective, and safe practices;
- Meet standards established through cooperative agreements, annual operating plans, and memorandums of understanding for the protection of non-Forest Service wildlands within the Forest's protection boundary.

a. Fire Prevention

The goal of fire prevention is to reduce or eliminate the number of human-caused ignitions. Prevention analysis for each Forest is underway. Plans will address concerns identified in County Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) as they relate to prevention and education.

Two significant areas of human caused fire risks have been previously identified:

- Fires from industrial operations, especially on steep southern aspects on private lands protected by the Powell Ranger District.
- Fires from all human causes, including arson, in the steep river canyons that are described as Break-land Fires.

Prevention plans may include:

- Introduction and statement of objectives
- Identification of problem areas with an action plan.
- Public contact plan
- Public education plan
- Industrial Inspection plan
- Signing Plan
- Closure and restriction guidelines.

1. <u>Annual Prevention Program</u>

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests have developed a Smokey Bear program for Kindergarten thru 6th grades, parades are an additional method used to convey Smokey's message. The prevention programs are supplemented and enhanced by additional education programs such as: Campfire etiquette, the Fire

Triangle, Fire and Outdoor Safety, Fire Ecology, GPS skills, and the Fire Trunk workshop developed by the Fire Lab in Missoula. Signs are used to post restrictions, burn permit information, and other fire safety messages across both forests; as are Newspaper articles and PSAs. Media outreaches are also used to educate the public on the Firewise program and show how they can become involved. Information booths are an additional tool used to educate the public on fire prevention issues and the various fire management activities: Suppression, Wildland Fire Use, and Prescribed Fire.

Individual districts complement their prevention program with specific actions that meet the needs of their communities and comply with the National Fire Plan, some specific examples are:

- Prevention plan with the Whitewater Wilderness Ranch Community (expected completion summer 2007)
- Work cooperatively with the BLM, Clearwater RC&D, Idaho County, and Salmon River Rural Fire Department to collect WUI/defensible space information in the Salmon River Canyon. Funds have been awarded by the RC&D council to contract with the Student Conservation Association to collect data in the summer of 2007. It is expected that data will be collected for 200 sites, and then be available to ID County, BLM, and FS.
- Continued coordination with the Idaho interagency fire prevention specialists in the Northern Region to foster better communication and sharing of resources between the USFS, Idaho Dept. of Lands, & Keep Idaho Green
- Maintain interagency cooperation with local and federal partners which included but are not limited to: BLM, IDL, Nez Perce Tribe & CPTPA.

2. Special Orders and Closures

To reduce the risk of human-caused fires during unusually high fire danger and/or burning conditions, fire restrictions in the form of special orders or closures, may be implemented on the jurisdictional lands of the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. The method for invoking fire restrictions is described in the NRCG Prevention Committee Restriction and Closure Procedures (4/11/2001). The Idaho Zone Coordinator, Brian Shiplett, will initiate the process for zone wide actions.

Activation of the Fire Restrictions or Emergency Closure comes under authority of 36 CFR 261.50. Forest Supervisors/Regional Foresters have the authority to issue Fire Restrictions and/or Closures.

3. Industrial Operations and Fire Precautions

Industrial Operations and Fire Precautions are detailed in the Fire Prevention Plans.

b. Annual Fire Training Activities

All personnel on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests involved in fire activities—including prescribed fire—will meet the training and experience standards set forth in the 5109.17 Wildland Fire Qualifications Handbook. This required training includes annual fireline refresher training that includes a fire shelter deployment exercise. The refresher and successful completion of the appropriate level of work capacity testing is a pre-requisite for receipt of an Interagency Incident Qualifications Card (Red Card).

The Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center maintains Qualification Card program database. Individual units are responsible for updating personnel training and qualifications information. The Dispatch Center reviews qualifications and issues qualification cards.

The Regional Director of Fire, Aviation and Air will review and approve all Area Command and Type 1 Incident Management Command and General Staff positions. The authority to approve all other fire qualification positions has been delegated from the Forest Supervisor to the Fire Staff Officer.

1. Qualifications and Training Needs Assessment

Each individual unit annually determines the qualifications and skills needed on their unit to operate a safe and effective fire management program and to meet the qualification standards set nationally. Position Task Books (PTBs) may be initiated for individuals meeting the requirements to perform as a Trainee in that specific position. Final certification of a successfully completed task book is the responsibility of the employees' Fire Manager, *e.g.* Forest Training Officer for Supervisor's Office employees, Fire Management Officer (or designee) for district employees, Smokejumper Training Officer for the Smokejumper Unit, or Dispatch Center Coordinator for dispatch staff.

2. Fire Qualifications and Review Committee

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests Fire Qualification Review Committee (FQRC) determines the certification of personnel according to FSH 5109.17 and applicable Forest Service policies and directives. See Appendix L for the Fire Qualifications Review Committee Operating Plan.

3. Training and Team Nominations

The FQRC reviews and prioritizes Clearwater and Nez Perce NF nominations for both National and Regional fire training courses. Nominations are then forwarded to the North Idaho Training Coordinator in Coeur d'Alene, ID. After further prioritization, NIZ submits the nominations to the appropriate geographic training zone.

The Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center maintains a current copy of the "North Idaho Zone Training Committee Charter and Annual Operating Plan."

Factors to be considered in determining the priority ranking of candidates for fire training courses may include the following:

- Direct application of training to primary job
- Local, Regional, and National shortages and needs
- Link of training to other needed qualification
- Forest Developmental Positions
- Nominee's years of experience and demonstrated abilities
- Appointment term: PFT, PSE, and 1039
- Contribution to workforce diversity
- Interagency Fire Program Management Qualifications Standards and Guide

4. Forest and Individual Unit Training

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests bi-annually coordinates 100 and 200 level National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) approved courses to meet the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest objective of providing, on forest, the training necessary for an individual to meet the requirements of Incident Commander Type 4 (ICT4) and Single Resource Crew Boss (CRWB). Other local training courses may be offered as determined by periodic needs analysis.

To meet the specific training needs of the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests and individual units, it may be advantageous to coordinate fire courses above the 200 level. In order to accomplish this, the FQRC will request permission and assistance from the Northern Rockies Training Unit.

Within seven days of local fire training course conclusion, the course coordinator will forward a letter of course completion (using File Code 5100-3/6140) to each student's employing office and to the Forest Fire Training Officer.

c. Fire Season Readiness

1. Annual Preparedness Reviews

The Deputy Forest Fire Management Staff, in conjunction with district fire managers and interagency partners, annually conduct readiness inspections for all zone fire management resources. Typically, this is scheduled as early as possible in the season after all modules are staffed and training has been completed; ½ of the districts in May and ½ in June is our goal to complete the reviews in a timely manner. Reviews are conducted in accordance with implementation direction found in the Interagency Fire Preparedness Review Guide (www.fire.blm.gov/Standards/BLM_Preparedness_Checklists). The identified lead person will provide a written summary to the Fire Staff Officer and District Ranger within two weeks after the preparedness inspection.

District and Staff Fire Managers should conduct periodic station and module inspections, and utilize the findings to identify areas needing improvement.

Aviation units, smokejumper, helibases, and tanker base, may be subject to national or regional preparedness reviews in addition to the forest inspections.

2. Fire Season Determination

Season start dates that have been established for fire modules are based on National Fire Management Analysis System (NFMAS) funding levels. These dates are based on historical fire occurrence trends and patterns and authorize the employment of seasonal personnel through to the end of fire season.

- Beginning of fire season—June 1st
- End of fire season—October 15

3. Fire Cache/Warehouse

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests Warehouse, located at East Highway 13 Grangeville, Idaho, provides a wide variety of services and supplies to support forest functions involving both fire and non-fire activities.

One of the primary goals of the Warehouse is to maintain stocking levels that will ensure the warehouse will always have the capability to provide emergency support in a critical fire situation. To achieve this, the Clearwater and Nez Perce NF Warehouse provides and maintains a 500-person fire cache. This cache provides support for two national forests, including eight districts, two 20-person forest regular crews, two helitack crews, and a 30-person smokejumper unit.

d. Detection

Achieve prompt fire detection and reporting to the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center. This ensures a timely appropriate management response.

Fire detection operations on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests consist of a combination of different applications. The systems presently utilized are fixed, aerial, and automatic lightning detection.

1. Aerial Detection

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests contract for fixed-wing aircraft services during the fire season to support fire management actions. Detection flights utilizing either contract aircraft or suited smokejumper patrols will be initiated based on the following general guidelines:

- As determined by fire danger levels;
- Lightning storm occurrence;
- As assistance in the location of wildland fires; and
- To recon and monitor potential wildland fire use candidates.

Aerial Observers are under the supervision of the Zone Aviation Officer and are located at Grangeville Air Center (GAC). Detection flights are ordered through GVC Dispatch. Aerial patrol routes will typically be based on the lightning data and District(s) needs. A detection flight will cover specific districts, the east or west side of each forest, or both forests entirely. Districts will be informed of scheduled flights and provide in-put in flight route determinations. Specific areas for priority aerial detection will be based on storm paths, precipitation duration and amount, input from District Fire Management, and the ability for fire detection lookouts to see specific areas. Routine detection flight paths are established for both Forests, but can be adjusted to meet district requests most efficiently.

2. Fixed Detection

Fire lookout towers provide fixed detection services on the forests. Lookouts are staffed seasonally to cover the periods of highest fire danger. Staffed lookouts are usually operational by July 4th and remain in place throughout July, August and September. Factors that influence the cessation of lookout operations at a specific location include the fuel and weather conditions present in early fall (September to mid-October), fiscal year funding and the availability of personnel to staff the site. The decision to cease operations at a lookout is made by the individual district fire management staff and may incorporate the recommendations of neighboring districts, forests and state fire managers.

If the fire danger is low, lookout personnel may be utilized on other projects. To ensure sufficient coverage, the lookout's fire schedule will be developed so neighboring lookouts are staffed with alternate days off or have planned relief.

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests regularly staff lookouts as displayed in the following table.

Table 9. Clear/Nez Zone Lookouts.

DISTRICT	NAME	ACCESS	REMARKS
Lochsa	*Hemlock Butte	Road	*5
North Fork	Black Mountain	Trail	*3
North Fork	Osier Ridge	Road	*3
North Fork	Eagle Point	Road	*1
Lochsa	Walde Mountain	Road	*3
Powell	Beaver Ridge	Road	*3
Powell	Rocky Point	Road	*3
Powell	Bear Mountain	Trail	*3
Powell	Diablo	Trail	*1
Palouse	Bald (Big Baldy)	Road	*2
Salmon River	Chair Point	Road	*3
Salmon River	Slate Point	Road	*3
Salmon River	Black Butte	Trail	*1
Salmon River	Heaven's Gate	Road	*4
Clearwater	Pilot Knob	Road	*3
Clearwater	Corral Hill	Road	*3
Red River	Sheep Hill	Trail	*3
Red River	Oregon Butte	Trail	*3

Red River	Elk Summit	Road	*1
Red River	Green Mountain	Road	*1
Moose Creek	Shissler	Trail	*3
Moose Creek	Gardiner	Trail	*3
Moose Creek	Coolwater	Road	*3
Moose Creek	Indian Hill	Road	*3

*1 Used on an as needed basis/severity.
*2 Staffed by the Idaho Department of Lands as needed.
*3 To be staffed with available financing.
*4 Staffed by Hell's Canyon NRA.
*5 Not staffed in 2004.

Specific staffing actions for Clearwater and Nez Perce NF lookouts are based on the Fire Preparedness Level and are outlined in the chart displayed in Section IV (formerly "Clearwater and Nez Perce NF Staffing and Action Guide"). Adjacent national forests and state managed lands also provide lookout services that occasionally assist the Clearwater and Nez Perce NF in detection efforts. These are included in the following Table 10:

Table 10. Adjacent forest lookouts.

LOOKOUT	**UNIT**
Hershey Point	Payette NF
Carey Dome	Payette NF
Pollock Mountain	Payette NF
War Eagle	Payette NF
Pilot Peak	Payette NF
Sheepeater	Salmon Challis NF
Hells Half Acre	Bitterroot NF
Heavens Gate	Wallowa Whitman NF

Automatic Lightning Detection: An internet based lightning detection system is available as a cooperative program with the Bureau of Land Management. Grangeville Dispatch is responsible for providing the districts, smokejumper unit and Supervisor's Office with the current login and web address information. Prior to a detection flight, Grangeville Dispatch will print the appropriate lightning data maps to facilitate flight route planning.

Discovery and Reporting: Upon discovery of any fire, wildfire, or unreported controlled burn, the following information will be reported to Grangeville Interagency Dispatch who will follow Block card direction and subsequently to the designated Duty Officer of the district with fire management responsibilities:

- Geographic location with Township, Range, Section and quarter-Section and/or latitude/longitude coordinates.
- Size of fire
- Wind/slope information

- Current fire behavior/characteristics
- Type of fuel
- Potential for fire growth
- Road/trail access
- Person reporting fire and contact information
- Improvements threatened
- Time of discovery

e. Fire Weather and Fire Danger

1. Weather Stations

There are a total of twelve permanent weather stations on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. The weather stations are National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS). The twelve NFDRS RAWS are:

ID	Name	Location
100603	Potlatch	Potlatch Ranger Station
100606	Shock	Palouse District - Strychnine Ridge
100708	Kelly	Kelly Forks Work Center
100711	Pierce	Pierce Work Center
100714	Dent	Dworshak Reservoir at Dent
100717	Eagle	Northfork District – Eagle Point Lookout
101013	Fenn	Fenn Ranger Station
101028	Moose Creek	Moose Creek Ranger Station
101031	Powell	Powell Pond Area
101037	Slate Creek	Slate Creek Ranger Station
101045	Red River	Red River Ranger Station
101049	Roundtop	Roundtop Mountain

4 portable Handar RAWS used primarily for prescribed fire and large fire support. ⇨Mariah ⇨ Tess ⇨ Cecilia ⇨Ophilia

The Clearwater and Nez Perce Forests have some manual stations located on the forest at various locations which are utilized to report weather information to the National Weather Service (NWS).

The following table displays ERCs and percentile breakpoints for each weather station. Data was extracted using Fire Family Plus, using a minimum of 20 years of weather data, if available. Breakpoints between classes use weather data from May 15 to October 10. All stations are fuel model G except Slate Creek, which is fuel model C.

Table 11. Zone weather station information.

Station	Station #	1 (90^{th})*(.25)	2 (90^{th})*(.50)	3L (90^{th})*(.75)	3H 90^{th} percentile	4 97^{th} percentile	5 greater than 97th
CWF (05)							
Potlatch	100603	0-11	12-22	23-33	34-44	45-53	> 53
Shock	100606	0-15	16-30	31-45	46-60	61-71	> 71
Kelly	100708	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-46	> 46
Pierce	100711	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-38	39-43	> 43
Powell	101031	0-10	11-21	22-31	32-41	42-50	> 50
NPF (17)							
Fenn	101013	0-10	11-21	22-31	32-41	42-47	> 47
Moose Cr.	101028	0-11	12-21	22-32	33-43	44-51	> 51
Slate Cr.	101037-C	0-11	12-21	22-32	33-43	44-52	> 52
Red River	101045	0-11	12-22	23-33	34-44	45-49	> 49

f. Policy and FSM and Handbook Direction

Safety: In addition to national standards, The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest employees adhere to each of the Forest Safety Plans. These documents are updated annually and dispersed to the units by the Forest Safety Officer.

Mobilization Guide (updated annually): The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest Dispatch Center has developed and annually updates the "Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests Mobilization Guide." This guide details the mobilization actions and procedures implemented for resources assigned on and off-forest.

Zone Regular Crew Plan (2007 update): In addition to the 20- person Palouse Type II Crew, the Clear/Nez Fire Zone attempts to meet both on and off-forest requests by temporarily organizing type II, twenty-person firefighting crews. Additional crews can be mobilized through the Nez Perce Tribe and the Idaho State Department of Corrections in Orofino, Idaho. More than one crew may be mobilized at a time based on the situation, preparedness levels, draw-down levels, and discretion of the Fire Staff Officer. The updated plan outlines a process that was jointly developed by the FMOs and dispatch with Zone Fire Management approval.

Type III Plan (2007 update): The previous Clearwater Area Type III Teams Operating Plan is being updated this year to include an additional ClearNez Type 3 team. It is contained within the "Clearwater/Nez Perce National Forests Mobilization Guide."

Staffing and Action: To ensure that fire suppression, prevention and detection resources are available as the relative fire danger increases, the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests have developed a chart that displays minimum staffing levels, detection actions and staffing, and seasonal schedules for firefighting units. See Appendix C, Staffing and Action Guide.

g. Aviation Management

The Clear/Nez Fire Zone maintains a large aviation program that is utilized to support both fire and non-fire operations. During the fire season months, the Clearwater and

Nez Perce will host two exclusive use high performance type 3 helicopters with 10 person crews, two Idaho Department of Lands single engine airtankers (AT-802), one air attack platform (Aero Commander 500B), one smokejumper aircraft (Twin Otter) and two exclusive use light fixed-wing aircraft.

The Zone Aviation Officer directs the overall management of the aviation program on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest. Guidelines for aviation operations are contained in the "Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests Zone Aviation Management Plan." The purpose of the Aviation Management Plan is to provide a working tool and reference document for aviation policies, regulations, procedures and other necessary information for implementing a safe and cost effective aviation program on the Zone.

Operational plans that further define aviation actions on the Zone include:

- GAC Tanker Base Operations Plan
- Clearwater and Nez Perce Helicopter Operations and Safety Plan
- North Central Idaho Interagency Guide for Single Engine Air Tankers
- Tri-Region Agreement

3. Initial Attack

Initial attack is an aggressive suppression action consistent with firefighter and public safety and commensurate with values at risk.

Initial attack forces consist of the first suppression personnel to arrive at a fire plus reinforcements arriving during the first operational period. A qualified individual on scene will be identified as the Incident Commander (IC). All requirements dictated by the 30 mile plan will be adhered to including but not limited to having the IC focused on the management of the fire with no collateral duties. The name of the designated IC will be communicated to the District Duty Officer and Dispatch. The resources currently assigned, and those in-bound to the incident will also be notified as to the identity of the IC and checked in and briefed prior to fireline duty.

The Incident Commander is responsible for ensuring that all resources assigned to the incident have been briefed and that all principles of "Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes and Safety Zones" (LCES) and 10 Standard Fire Orders have been implemented prior to the initiation of any actions. In the event the fire complexity increases to a level exceeding the qualifications and capabilities of the Initial Attack IC, the current IC will notify the Duty Officer that a higher qualified Incident Commander is required. The decision to transition to an IC with higher qualifications may be made by the current Incident Commander or the Duty Officer. The outgoing IC will make recommendations for additional resources and overhead and brief the newly assigned IC in a systematic transition.

Dispatch, the Duty Officer, and all incoming and assigned resources will be notified of a change in Incident Commander and the specific time the transition will occur. This was identified as a primary concern and area for needed improvement during a busy 2006 fire

season. When transitioning from a local incident to an Incident Management Team, if possible the outgoing IC should be present at the Forest-Team in-briefing.

a. Information Used to set IA Priorities

In situations when multiple fire starts require prioritization and resources are limited across the zone, the Forest Duty Officer with input from District fire management should consider the following when assigning incident priorities:

- Imminent threat to firefighter and public safety or private property and improvements
- Foreseeable Suppression costs
- Land Management Plan objectives and goals for the FMU
- Current and predicted fire weather
- Fire behavior currently exhibited by ongoing incidents in similar fuel types
- Proximity to and probability of fire spread into critical fuel types (i.e. blowdowns)
- Probability of success in controlling fire spread in the initial burning period
- Projected commitment of initial attack resources
- Projected Logistical needs including access
- Single or multiple jurisdictions involved or likely to be involved

b. Criteria for the Appropriate Initial Attack Response

All management actions on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests will consider firefighter and public safety as the most critical criteria to determine appropriate initial attack response. The direction for the specific area contained in the Clearwater and Nez Perce Land Management Plans and described in the FMU descriptions will be considered as important criteria. For example, fires that start in the Suppression Emphasis FMU (FMU 2) will typically be fully suppressed in a manner that will reduce the impacts to resources and improvements. Fires in the FC-RONR FMU (FMU4) that are determined to be unwanted, however, may be put in to a confinement strategy based on the priorities established for other fires burning at the same time, and the determination that confinement is the safest and least cost alternative.

The selection of a specific initial attack response needs to consider the following criteria prior to implementation:

1) Firefighter and public safety
2) Threat to life or property
3) Current and predicted fire behavior and weather
4) Suppression resource availability
5) Suppression costs

6) Resource damage or loss (from fire and suppression actions)
7) Environmental impacts (of fire and suppression actions)
8) Smoke management considerations
9) Political considerations

The IC or District Duty Officer will determine continued fire staffing needs and procedures until a fire is declared out. At a minimum, regular checks will be made during the burning period until the IC declares the fire out.

Night travel or work will be an acceptable practice, except where judged unsafe because of conditions such as weather, fire behavior, difficult or unfamiliar terrain or lack of adequate radio contact.

Work shifts and travel will conform to current National Work/Rest guidelines and be implemented on all fires, regardless of fire size.

Initial attack resources will maintain radio contact with Grangeville Interagency Dispatch (or designated emergency contact such as a lookout) at all times. The IC is responsible for checking in at regular intervals to report work progress and expected needs. If the fire is in a location with poor or no radio communications and a staffed fire detection lookout is not in close enough proximity to provide a relay, one will be set up and maintained for the duration of firefighter activity in that area.

After hours contact procedures will be relayed to firefighting resources that will remain overnight on an incident. During fire season, Dispatch will designate a daily contact that will be available by radio or telephone for after-hours needs.

c. Confinement

Confinement is the strategy employed in appropriate management responses where a fire perimeter is managed by a combination of direct and indirect actions and use of natural topographic features, fuel and weather factors. The Clearwater and Nez Perce Land and Resource Management Plans allow for confinement as an appropriate management response for all the acres within forest jurisdictional boundaries, including the lands in the Non-FS Protection Areas FMU (FMU1).

Since it is a suppression response, confinement is not an appropriate strategy to achieve resource objectives.

A confinement strategy may be implemented as the initial action during Stage 1: Initial Fire Assessment as long as it is not used to meet resource objectives (FSH 5109.19, 52.2). Confinement can also be a strategic selection through the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) process when the fire is expected to exceed initial attack capability or planned management capability. A Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP) or WFSA should be prepared as the fire or management considerations dictate.

d. Response Times

Firefighting individuals, modules and units placed on standby for initial attack will have a response time that corresponds to the specific readiness needs of the particular resource. Typical expected response times are summarized below:

- Air Tanker Base: During regular duty hours (0900-1300, 1400-1800) and times of ordered standby, local response will be within 10 minutes of dispatch request.
- Smokejumper Unit: During regular duty hours (0800-1200, 1300-1700) and times of ordered standby, specific mission needs may require additional on the ground configuration time, but a typical local initial attack response time will be within 10 minutes of dispatch request.
- Clearwater and Nez Perce Helicopter Crews: During regular duty hours (0800-1200, 1300-1700) and times of ordered standby, specific mission needs may require additional on the ground configuration time, but a local initial attack response time is required to be less than 10 minutes from dispatch request.
- Engine Modules and Hand Crews: During regular duty hours (typically 0800-1200, 1230-1630) and times of ordered standby, engine modules and hand crews working at their assigned base can be expected to be enroute to a local incident within 5 minutes of dispatch request.

During periods of lower fire danger, response times may be lengthened in order to facilitate the accomplishment of work assignments and fire training for firefighting resources. Dispatch requests received before or after duty hours or during non-compensable meal breaks may require additional time to bring firefighting resources into duty status.

e. Restrictions and Special Concerns

In order to mitigate fire suppression impacts to Threatened and Endangered Species, and sensitive areas, firefighting resources adhere to the standards established in the Programmatic Biological Assessment of the Fire Management Program (Appendix N). This document has been designed to provide fire managers and dispatchers with accurate and up to date information to meet forest resource constraints during wildland fire suppression activities.

In accordance with Forest Service Manual direction (FSM 5130.3), in the event of a life-threatening emergency, actions will be taken to provide for the safety of firefighters, other personnel and the public, regardless of suppression costs or resource loss.

f. Social and Political Concerns

Where possible, local businesses, resources, and assets will be utilized in support of fire management actions on the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests. The intent is to involve the local communities economically, politically and socially in fire management.

4. Extended Attack and Large Fire Suppression

a. Determining extended attack needs

A wildfire is considered to be in extended attack status when:

- Suppression efforts have not succeeded or are not expected to reach containment within 24 hours.
- The Initial Attack Incident Commander (ICT4 or ICT5) requests additional resources that result in fire complexity attaining Type III status within or following the first 24 hours after the arrival of the first suppression resources.

District Duty officer will consult with the Line Officer (District Ranger) and Forest Duty officer to determine appropriate strategy, Wildland Fire Situation Analysis development and current resource needs. Extended analysis needs will be determined by the following factors and FMU objectives:

- Current and predicted fire behavior
- Current and predicted weather
- Suppression resource availability

b. Implementation plan requirements – WFSA development

The Line Officer will be responsible to prepare a Wildland Fire Situation Analysis for all wildfires that escape or are expected to escape initial attack, and will select the preferred management strategy in accordance with FSM 5131.1. See table 12 below for limits of responsibility.

Table 12. WFSA- Cost, Complexity, and Authority.

Cost And Complexity Level	Responsibility	Actions
Up to $2 MM or **Type 2** Incident Team Activated	District Ranger	Develop and certify WFSA. Issues Delegation of Authority
$2 MM and up to $10 MM, or a **Type 1** Incident Team, or **Area Command Team**	Forest Supervisor	Develop and certify WFSA. Issues Delegation of Authority
$10 MM and up to $50 MM, regardless of team assigned	Regional Forester	Forest Supervisor to develop WFSA and Issue Delegation of Authority. Regional Forester to Certify WFSA within 12 hours
Over $50 MM	Chief	Forest Supervisor to develop WFSA and Issue Delegation of Authority. Regional Forester to provide WFSA and consult with Chief. Chief to Certify WFSA within 24 hours.

A WFSA shall be used to document wildland fire suppression strategy decisions for any incident, and must be completed when:

- A wildfire escapes initial action or is expected to exceed initial action,
- A wildland fire being managed for resource benefits exceeds prescription parameters in the fire management plan,
- A prescribed fire exceeds its prescription and is declared a wildfire

The initial WFSA must be approved prior to initiation of a new strategy and within 12 hours of a fire escaping initial actions. A brief Wildland Fire Situation Analysis shall be developed to define suppression objectives for extended attack operations.

Selection of the preferred management strategy will not consider positive resource benefits resulting from wildfire as an objective. However, the selection of less aggressive containment strategies in areas of minimal potential negative impacts is appropriate if it is determined to be the safest and least-cost alternative.

Alternatives developed through the Wildland Fire Situation Analysis process must be consistent with the goals of the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and must include an incident complexity analysis to document rationale.

The following elements should be completed prior to the arrival of a Type 2 or Type 1 Incident Management Team on the Unit:

- Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) complete with applicable incident objectives and a selected alternative to guide tactical suppression actions. The Forest Supervisor or delegated authority will select the preferred alternative and sign the wildland fire situation analysis.
- Every WFSA will have a least cost alternative.
- Design alternatives which can be implemented
- Each alternative must be accompanied by a strategic plan of action
- The probability of success and consequences of failure must be assessed and displayed
- Each alternative will display the estimated numbers of acres burned, times for containment and control, suppression costs and resource damage
- Agency Administrator Briefing guide completed
- Delegation of Authority completed and signed by the Forest Supervisor

The Forest FMO or Fire Staff and Forest Supervisor will conduct a formal briefing covering the above items for the incoming incident management team. Agency expectations should be clearly defined and achievable.

The extended attack incident commander will conduct an operations briefing for incoming operations staff onsite at the incident.

c. Complexity decision process for incident management transition

The Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation (Red Book, 2005) appendices "L" and "M" can be used to determine incident complexity.

A Type III Incident Commander will manage incidents that reach a Type III complexity level and will fill associated command and general staff positions as appropriate for the incident.

d. Example delegation of authority to incident commander
www.fs.fed.us/fire/wfsa

5. Exceeding Existing Incident Management Strategy

A new Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA) is required when the objectives of the existing WFSA have been compromised (or are expected to be compromised). The revised WFSA will include a new set of objectives and a range of alternatives and associated fallback strategies and worst-case outcomes.

Given the inherent inaccuracies in developing estimated costs associated with each alternative, a +10% increase of costs should be considered, built into the rationale, and documented.

The Jan/Feb Journal of Forestry issue printed a research briefing paper on how to improve estimated versus actual outcomes in the WFSA process. The author found that "fire managers *overestimated* the probability that a fire would exceed the size identified as the worst case scenario. In addition, fire managers *underestimated* the probability that a fire would exceed estimated target size." In other words managers generally tend to overestimate the probability of unlikely events occurring, and to underestimate the probability of likely events occurring. Go to http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/wfsa/ for the briefing article.

6. Minimum Impact Strategies and Tactics (MIST)
See Appendix M, Current National and Regional Direction and Strategies – MIST.

7. Other Fire Suppression Considerations
See Appendix N, Programmatic Biological Assessment of the Fire Management Program.

8. Records
A permanent project record will be kept at the forest for each wildland fire incident. Incident records management requirements are described at http://www.nifc.gov/records/.

C. Wildland Fire Use

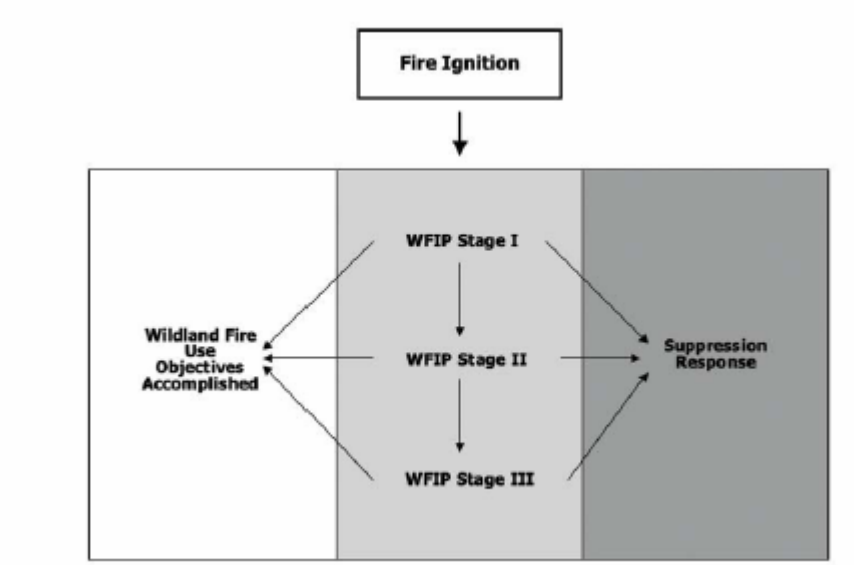


Figure 3. General flow of wildland fire implementation plan showing progression of stages and points of movement to the appropriate management response. (WFU Procedures Guide)

Wildland Fire Use (WFU) refers to the management of naturally ignited wildland fire to accomplish specific resource management objectives as described in each Fire Management Unit.

1. Objectives

The objective of wildland fire use on the Clearwater/Nez Perce National Forests is to restore and maintain ecosystems consistent with land uses and historic fire regimes. This relates directly to the Clearwater and Nez Perce Forest Plans Forest wide goals for wildland fire.

2. Factors Affecting Decision Criteria for Wildland Fire Use

The decision to manage a wildland fire for resource benefit on the Clearwater and Nez Perce NFs will be guided by the following guidebooks:

- Rapid River WFU (new to the NPF)
- Frank Church River of No Return WFU,
- Selway Bitterroot WFU,
- Gospel-Hump Wilderness,
- Clearwater Wildland Fire Use.

Criteria may include time of year (seasonality), position of the ignition within the FMU, the fire danger indicator (ERC/BI), and the relative risk of the fire creating negative economic values (cost + net value change) and potential impacts to Clearwater and Nez Perce LMP fire suppression areas.

3. Planned Implementation Procedures

To determine implementation procedures see Wildland Fire Use Implementation Procedures Reference Guide.

The analysis team during development of WFIP Stages II and III should include the Resource Specialists, LTAN, and Fire Use Manager. Other specialists may be included as appropriate.

Between the initial decision and the completion of the WFIP, the approving officer (or designate) will validate the continued management of the Fire Use event. The Stage 1 WFIP will be completed within 8 hours of the Wildland Fire Use declaration and initial size-up. Additional time frames for completion of WFIP stages are displayed in the following table taken from the Wildland Fire Use Implementation Procedures Reference Guide, 2005.

Table 13. WFIP completion timeframes. (WFU Procedures Guide)

WFIP Stage	Maximum Completion Timeframe
WFIP Stage I	8 hours after confirmed fire detection and Strategic Fire Size-Up
WFIP Stage II	48 hours after need indicated by Planning Needs Assessment
WFIP Stage III	7 days after need indicated by Planning Needs Assessment
Periodic Fire Assessment	As part of all stages and on assigned frequency thereafter

4. Impacts of Plan Implementation

On and off-site impacts and mitigation measures are identified on a site specific basis in the WFIP.

5. Required Personnel

Required personnel qualifications are shown in the following table, taken from the Wildland Fire Use Implementation Procedures Reference Guide, 2005.

Table 14. WFIP Minimum Planning Qualifications

WFIP Stage	Minimum Planning Qualifications	Minimum Implementation Qualifications
Stage I	Unit Duty Officer	Incident Commander Type 4
Stage II	Fire Use Manager Type 2	Fire Use Manager Type 2
Stage III		

See Clear/Nez 2007 Mobilization Guide for FUMA 1, FUMA 2, and Trainees.

See Appendix G, Delegation of authority letters.

Level of authority during Preparedness Level 4
Management Direction/Consideration: WFU and prescribed fire application can be continued or be initiated if the proposed action is approved by an agency at the Regional or State Office level. This approval must be based on an assessment of risk, impacts of the proposed actions on area resources and activities, and include feedback from the GMAC. The GMAC provides information or perspectives to agencies wishing to proceed with or implement a WFU or prescribed fire application. The final decision to implement resides with the implementing agency.

Level of authority for Preparedness Level 5
WFU and prescribed fire application can be continued or be initiated if the proposed action is recommended at the Regional or State level. The National Agency Representative will assess risk and impacts of the proposed actions and discuss with NMAC. This group will have an opportunity to provide information or perspectives to agencies wishing to proceed with or implement a WFU or prescribed fire application. The final decision to implement resides with the implementing agency.

6. Public Information

Initial news queries on wildland fires will be directed to the either the Clearwater or Nez Perce NF Public Affairs Officer (PAO). Prompt reply to such queries is essential and should include interpretation of the wildland fire use program. The Forest Duty Officer, IC, Dispatch, or FUMA will provide periodic fire information update to the Forest PAO. Requests for media visits will be directed to the PAO and coordinated with the Fire Use Manager (FUMA) or Incident Commander. Detailed public information plans are attached as an appendix in each Fire Management Unit Guidebook.

7. Records

A permanent project record will be kept at the district and regional level for each wildland fire use application. Incident records management requirements are described at http://www.nifc.gov/records/.

8. Cost Tracking

Wildland fire managed for resource objectives (natural ignitions) will record the work with a "G" cost accounting code.

D. Prescribed Fire

1. Planning and documentation

a. Annual activities to implement the program

Forest leadership teams set priorities annually by forest. Additionally, District FMOs meet annually with zone fire staff to establish priorities and budgets.

A new FSM 5140 is due out this spring.

b. Long-term prescribed fire strategy

Current fuels strategies consider priorities outlined in the following plans:

- Approved Forest Plans
- National Fire Plan, see the new Interagency Prescribed Fire Planning and Implementation Procedures Reference Guide, Sept 2006
- County Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)
- R1 Regional Integrated Restoration and Protection Strategy
- NPF Integrated Vegetation Strategy

Fuels specialists should consider the following when developing potential projects: HFRA/HFI, WUI, Stewardship, and Mechanical treatments.

Both forests are considering a project proposal form, which will be used to bring projects forward and as a course filter. See Appendix F.

For FY07 planned fuels treatments see Appendix F.

c. Number and Kind of Qualified Personnel

See 2007 Clearwater Nez Perce Zone Mobilization Guide available at each district and Supervisor's Offices.

d. Weather, fire behavior, and fire effect monitoring

Weather, fire behavior and prescribed fire effects monitoring are described in the project specific NEPA decision, the vegetation prescription and the individual burn plan.

e. Format for project critiques

Informal reviews and after action reviews:
An onsite post-burn debriefing to assess implementation success in meeting objectives and document suggestions for improvement is part of the Clearwater/Nez Perce National Forest Prescribed Fire Burn Plans.

f. Reporting and Documentation Requirements

- Daily report to the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center with acres treated.
- Perimeters should be mapped and submitted to Forest GIS specialist.
- Report through the appropriate accounting system (was NFPORS now FACTS)
- Initial report of an escape prescribed fire is to line officer and Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center.

g. Historic Fuel Treatment Map

This has been identified as an action item and is currently under development.

h. Prescribed Fire Burn Plan Format

All burn plans will be written under the agreed standard interagency burn plan format. Elements required in the prescribed fire burn plan can be found in the implementation guide.

Prior to spring burning season a Fuels Management Job Hazard Analysis shall be tiered to the FMP and become part of the prescribed burn plan and covered as part of the fire use briefing. This Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) shall be signed by the District Ranger.

2. Exceeding Existing Prescribed Fire Burn Plan

An escape will consist of one or more of the following conditions:

- A prescribed burn exceeding the predetermined perimeter of a treatment area.
- Deviation from the RXBP's strategies and/or prescriptive parameters.
- Exceeding the allocated cost of the project or management capabilities.
- Unacceptable adverse resource impacts.
- Local and/or geographic area fire activity escalates and resources committed as contingency or holding forces are needed for re-assignment to other incidents.

Procedures for declaring an escaped fire:

- Take prompt and reasonable action to control and suppress the fire.
- Notify the agency administrator responsible for the area.
- Notify the other agency administrator(s), and/or other landowners that may be affected, of the escaped fire. Coordinate suppression actions with the other affected parties.
- Document the time and environmental conditions that existed when the escape occurred.
- Document the incident, including all actions prior to and after the escape. Set up a file that includes all pertinent information, i.e., the Prescribed Fire Plan, a chronology of events including the prescribed fire report and unit logs or individual

statements, the fire investigation report, weather forecasts including any spot forecasts, Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) data and National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) data for the day of the escape for the nearest weather stations, photos, and any appraisal of damages.

If the Burn Boss or Prescribed Fire Manager declares an escape, contingency actions will be initiated immediately to gain control of the escape. If contingency actions are unsuccessful, the escape will become an unwanted wildland fire, a WFSA will be prepared, and the Appropriate Management Response (AMR) to suppress the fire will commence.

Use only personnel qualified under the National Interagency Fire Qualification System Handbook and FSH 5109.17, Wildfire Qualifications Handbook, to accomplish the suppression strategy.

3. Air Quality And Smoke Management

Goals:

- Provide timely information and education opportunities concerning fire management and air quality in understandable terms to our interested public, cooperators and employees.
- Monitor smoke drift and mixing height before and during burning activities.
- DFMOs will notify the affected cooperators listed in the burn plan and issue a press release prior to implementation.

All our actions will meet or exceed State Air Quality regulations, limit impacts on down-range non-attainment and Class 1 areas, and protect public health. We will continue to involve and include the public as an integral part of our planning, implementation and monitoring processes to further our fire management effort. The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests are included in the North Idaho Air Shed Group (Appendix P).

The spring and summer burning season is March 1 to August 31. The fall burning season is September 1 to November 30. During the fall prescribed burning season, a burn must be scheduled a day in advance of its execution. Districts need to report what they plan to burn on a given day and the following day to the Zone Coordination Center by 1000 a.m.

Refer to the 2007 Montana/Idaho Airshed Group Operating Guide for new language regarding landscape level burns that may require multiple ignitions.

E. Non-fire Fuel Applications

1. Mechanical treatment and other applications

- **Annual activities to implement the program are as follows:**

Less than 10 percent of the total planned treatment acres on the Clearwater/Nez Perce Zone are mechanical treatments. In 2007 the mechanical treatments will increase based on the emphasis of treatment in the wildland urban interface. Both federal employees and contractors will be used to accomplish treatments. Techniques used include chain saw felling, lopping and scatter, whole tree removal, tractor piling, hand piling, chipping and use of on site micro milling.

- Equipment and seasonal use restrictions include:

Equipment used to treat fuels may be restricted by factors such as sensitive species or erosive soils. These restrictions are described in project specific NEPA analyses.

- Effects monitoring required:

Effects monitoring requirements for mechanical fuels treatment are described in the project specific NEPA decision and the vegetation prescription.

- Format for project critiques:

Annual interdisciplinary field reviews will be conducted on each forest to critique project success.

2. Cost accounting

Cost Accounting is accomplished through the use of specific management codes for each individual project.

3. Reporting and documentation requirements:

- Perimeters will be mapped to the standard described in the monitoring guide.
- Report through the appropriate accounting system.

4. Annual planned project list

See Appendix F for the current year fuels implementation projects.

F. Emergency Rehabilitation and Restoration

Site specific burned area rehabilitation plans will be completed as needed. The Forest Hydrologist is the Forest coordinator for burned area rehabilitation, and all projects will be coordinated through that position and the Forest Supervisor.

For additional information see Interagency Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation Handbook (FSH 2509.13).

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Section V
Organization and Budget Parameters

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Fire Management Plan
Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

Section V- Organization and Budget Parameters

A. Budget and Ability to Support Actions

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests receive separate budget allocations to support their respective District Fire programs. The Zone Fire Management staff positions and the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center organization are jointly supported by each Forest, as are the light fixed wing aircraft contracts. Direction for fiscal year 2007 is to staff aviation and fire management programs commensurate with 2004 Region 1 Revised Workforce Plan guidance. The Clear/Nez Zone has and intends to continue to comply with this direction, and with its current budget is able to meet the assigned FFPC target.

B. Current Organizations

The current organization profiles depicting the fire management organization on each District and for the Clear/Nez Zone, aviation and fire management positions, are contained in FMP, Appendix A/B: **Current Organization.**

C. Cooperative Agreements and Interagency Contacts

A master set of the applicable Cooperative Agreements for the Clear/Nez Fire Management Zone is maintained at the Grangeville Interagency Dispatch Center (GVC). To review the current list of agreements, see FMP, Appendix E: **Cooperative Agreements.**

A list of the Clear/Nez Fire Management Zone appropriate interagency contacts is contained in the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests Mobilization Guide compiled annually by GVC. Each District and Zone program office maintains a copy of this guide.

Lois Geary (476-8248) is the current Grants and Agreements Specialist for both forests.

D. Equipment Rental Agreements

The Clear/Nez Zone Emergency Equipment Rental Agreements are processed and maintained separately by each respective Forest's Purchasing Agents in Acquisition Management.

- Deb Gerfen 983-4001 (NPF)
- Pete Ruppel 476-8259 (CWF)

The web-based application Equipment and Training Inventory System (EaTIS) will be used again this year for incident business processes of acquiring, ordering, utilizing and paying

incident resources. The EaTIS database will record and organize engine and water tender EERA's, document vendor equipment inspections and provide vendor personnel qualifications and performance evaluations. This season EaTIS will be used for the water handling equipment only. Vendors will have access to EaTIS (www.eatis.alive.net) to submit their proposals electronically.

The solicitation for water handling equipment is anticipated to be available on February 24. The solicitation for buses is scheduled for March. Potential contractors will find the solicitations posted on the Federal Business Opportunities website (http://www.fbo.gov). Information specific to the Northern Rockies is posted on the NRCG website www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/.

For more information on this new system, contact the purchasing agents listed above.

A list of the current EERAs will be available at Grangeville Interagency Dispatch. The Northern Rockies solicitation timeline and Equipment Inspectors lists are included in FMP Appendix K: **Northern Rockies Equipment Contracts.**

E. Contract Suppression and Prescribed Fire Resources

The current contract resources for suppression and prescribed fire on the Clear/Nez Fire Management Zone are aviation related. Although the specific aircraft have a designated base location locally, the contracts originate from and are administered by either
1) An assigned contracting officer from the Northern Regional Office in Missoula, MT,
2) The national contracting office at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, ID, or
3) The State of Idaho, Department of Lands, Coeur d'Alene, ID.
These contracts are all "Exclusive Use," and information regarding use of these aircraft should be through the Zone Aviation Operations Officer, Willy Acton, at the Grangeville Air Center. The contract resources include the following aircraft:

Aircraft	Contract Number	Contract Office	Designated Base
Twin Otter (1)	AG-024B-C-06-9116	Boise	Grangeville Air Center
AT- 802 SEATS (2)	Idaho Department of Lands	CDA	Grangeville Air Center
Commander 500B (1)	AG-0343-C-06-8012	Missoula	Grangeville Air Center
Light Fixed Wing (2)	AG-0343-C-06-8013	Missoula	Grangeville Air Center
Type III Helicopter (1)	AG-0343-C-06-8000	Missoula	Grangeville Air Center
Type III Helicopter (1)	55-8371-07-9018	Albuquerque	Musselshell Work Center

Section VI
Monitoring and Evaluation

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Fire Management Plan
Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests

Section VI- Monitoring and Evaluation

A. Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Requirements

Monitoring and evaluation comprises the management control system for the Forest Plan. It will provide the information on the progress and results of implementing the Forest Plan to the decision maker and public. Monitoring and evaluation entails comparing the end results being achieved to those projected in the Plan. Costs, outputs, and environmental effects, both experienced and projected, will be considered.

National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and Forest Plan monitoring requirements common to both forests are displayed in the following table.

Table 15. NFMA monitoring requirements.

NFMA Requirement 36 CFR 219	Item No.	Actions, Effects, or Resources to be Measured	Expected Precision	Expected Reliability	Reporting Time
.12(K)(1)	1k	Acres and Numbers of Wildfire and Prescribed fire.	High	High	5 Years
.12(K)(3)	3	Costs of implementing resource management prescriptions.	High	High	Annually

CWF

Annually the Clearwater Forest will document the results of monitoring and evaluating the implemented plan. Objectives of the Plan will be evaluated and the deviation measured from the expected costs and outputs of the fire management analysis process. The measurement and evaluation may differ due to the variations in the weather or other factors. Providing the Plan is valid this variation should average out over time. The actual costs and outputs will approximate those obtained through the planning process, provided the results of the analysis process are valid.

NPF

The Nez Perce Forest will annually monitor and evaluate, on a sample basis, the overall progress in implementing the Plan and whether the overall relationships on which the Plan is based have changed over time. When changes occur, they will be evaluated as to their significance, and appropriate amendments or revisions made.

From the Nez Perce Forest Appendix O, item 1k:

"The purpose for monitoring the number of wildfires and comparing to 10-year averages is to assess the Forest wildland fire program. Specific items to be monitored are storm patterns and number of fires (lightning and person- caused). To annually analyze the information will aid

in establishing trends, thereby allowing the Forest to plan its prevention, presuppression, and suppression strategies. More specifically, these analyses will aid in providing the proper initial attack and prevention resources at the most strategic location possible. Current fire records, specifically, individual fire reports, are the source of information. These reports contain the necessary information to monitor the number of wildfires. An individual fire report is completed for each fire.

Prescribed fire, planned and unplanned, is monitored to determine if cost-effective alternatives have been emphasized and if it has been planned to maintain healthy, dynamic ecosystems that meet land management objectives. These monitoring elements can be reviewed and documented by an interdisciplinary team.

Prescribed fire influences air quality. Prescribed fire programs must be responsive to National, State, and local air quality regulations and agreements. Monitoring prescribed fire programs is essential to see that they adhere to these air quality regulations and agreements. Preparation and prescribed fire plans must address air quality."

Additional monitoring is required in the forest plan that is not specific to Fire Management but the impacts of fire (whether prescribed or wildland) may result in a change of conditions. For example: impacts of fire management activities on water quality, soils, acres of big game habitat improvement. For a complete list please see table V-1 NP Forest Plan.

The Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests will revise this Fire Management Plan annually. Objectives in the FMP will be evaluated annually; the deviation from expected costs measured, and associated issues identified. Monitoring and evaluation results may differ on an annual basis as weather, program funding, fire occurrence and project approvals and implementation vary. However, if the plan is valid, this fluctuation should average out over time. The actual program and activity costs and outputs will approximate those obtained through the planning process, provided the results of the analysis are valid. Annually, the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forest will prepare evaluation and monitoring reports as part of Forest Plan monitoring. Fire management activities are evaluated in these reports. Additional reporting includes the following:

1. Wildland Fire Use- Monitoring protocols for the Clearwater, Selway Bitterroot, Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness, and Gospel Hump Wilderness FMUs are outlined within the applicable Fire Use Guidebooks.

2. Project Level Fire and Fuels Treatments- All project level prescribed burn and fuels reduction/manipulation treatments will have monitoring needs addressed within the appropriate planning documents and, in the case of prescribed burning, readdressed within the monitoring objectives section of the specific prescribed burn plan. These needs will be identified by the Fire/Fuels Specialist on a project specific basis and should be coordinated with other functional specialists.

3. Wildland Fire- Monitoring and evaluation of wildland fire activities include:
    - Line Officers are required to review and evaluate 10% of all fire starts on their respective units, and will, at a minimum, verify compliance with established safety protocols by fireline personnel;
    - Clear/Nez Zone and District officials will evaluate each local fire management program annually, prior to fire season and assess and ensure the safety, efficiency and readiness of these programs.

- All large fires should be monitored during the term of the event to determine a) the effectiveness of the planned strategy and tactics, b) to ensure that all assigned ICs are dedicated to the incident they are managing and have no collateral duties, and c) to identify detrimental impacts and post-burn opportunities for rehabilitation work.

B. Reporting Requirements

Annual targets and accomplishments are submitted to the Regional Office with the out-year budget request each winter. These include:

- **FACTS:** Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS) has replaced NFPORS as the database of record. This System is utilized for all aspects of hazardous fuels planning and reporting including NEPA activities, prescribed burning and mechanical treatments. FACTS is the database of record for tracking all activities, treatments, and accomplishments in the following projects: Activity (BD) treatments Hazardous Fuels in WUI, Hazardous Fuels in Non-WUI targets, and improved condition class in classes 2 or 3 in Non-WUI.

- **NFMAS:** Fire fighter production capability (FFPC), Resource and Personnel counts at each required budget level (Form FS-5100-2)

Additional reports include the following:

- **Current Fire Record:** District individual fire report summary

- **Individual Fire Reports:** (FSH 5109.14 Individual Fire Report Handbook, Form FS-5100-29)/FIRESTAT

- **Fire History:** A GIS record of large fire perimeters is kept for both forests on the Nez Perce Forest system

- **Escaped prescribed fire reports** (FSM 5145.32)

- **Aviation Management Information System (AMIS):** For all revenue flight charged to the forest, either call-when-need or exclusive-use.

- **Annual Fire Report:** A year-end summary of fires on the Forest.

- **Annual Clearwater and Nez Perce Forest Monitoring Reports**

- **Accident reports** (FSH 6709.12 Safety & Health Program Handbook, Chapter 30)